

**THE MAHDI IS A
DESCENDENT OF THE
PROPHET ABRAHAM
(Peace Be Upon Him)**

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FOREWORD:

AN IMPORTANT STATEMENT REGARDING THE MUSLIM PERSPECTIVE ON THE OLD TESTAMENT AND THE NEW

In the Qur'an, Allah (God) reveals that Muslims should believe in Prophet Muhammad (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) and all the prophets sent before him, and in all the scriptures given to those prophets. In verse 4 of Surat al-Baqara, our Lord refers to Muslims as **“those who believe in what has been sent down to you and what was sent down before you . . .”**

As is mentioned in the Qur'an, the Old and New Testaments, the Psalms and the pages of Prophet Abraham (pbuh) are scriptures sent down to prophets who lived in past centuries. A portion of these books has been lost, and what remains has been corrupted or altered. Nonetheless, they still contain many true and accurate statements regarding the true faith. Muslims evaluate all these statements in the light of the Qur'an and the Sunnah, and consider those to be valid that are compatible with the divine verses and the hadith. For that reason, Muslims can make use of passages from both the Old and the New Testaments that are compatible with the Qur'an and in agreement with the Sunnah. The fundamental precondition, however, is that they should be compatible with the Qur'an as well as the hadith.

Allah has revealed that these scriptures were guides for the societies to which they were sent. In one verse (Surah Al 'Imran, 3-4), He reveals:

He has sent down the Book to you with truth, confirming what was there before it. And He sent down the Torah and the Injil, previously, as guidance for mankind, and He has sent down the Furqan.

Another verse reveals this about the Old Testament:

We sent down the Torah containing guidance and light, and the prophets who had submitted themselves gave judgment by it for the Jews—as did their scholars and their rabbis—by what they had been allowed to preserve of Allah's Book to which they were witnesses. (Surat al-Mai'da, 44)

In examining the portents of the End Times in the Old and New Testaments, the corrupted or distorted parts of those scriptures are not considered in this book. Only those passages compatible with the Qur'an and the hadith of our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) have been used.

INTRODUCTION:

THE END TIMES WE ARE LIVING IN, AND THE GLAD TIDINGS OF THE MAHDI

“The End Times” is a term used to describe the final days of Earth, prior to Doomsday. In this period, according to Islamic belief, mankind will be confronted by terrible corruption and degeneration. This dark age will be one of increasing injustice, oppression, famine and poverty, moral collapse, war and conflict, anarchy and chaos. It will come to an end with people returning to religious moral values. Want will be replaced by plenty, injustice and oppression by justice and understanding, and anarchy and chaos by peace and security, and the world will enjoy a hitherto unseen beauty and abundance. Allah will make the return to Earth of Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him) and Mahdi, a holy personage whose name means “he who has found the path of salvation” the means whereby the world attains enlightenment and abundance. These are all valuable glad tidings imparted by our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) as indicated in the Qur’an.

The portents of the End Times, the characteristics of the Mahdi who will appear in that age, the changes to take place after his coming, and the return to Earth of the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) have already been covered in detail in earlier books. (For details, see *Portents and Features of the Mahdi’s Coming*, *The End of Times and the Mahdi*, *The Golden Age*, *The Signs of Jesus’ (pbuh) Second Coming*, *The End Times and The Beast of the Earth*, all by Harun Yahya)

This book considers signs of the End Times in both the Bible and the Qur’an. In addition, we shall examine the characteristics of the time when religious moral values will rule the world which is known as the *Olam Ha-ba* or the World to Come to the Jews, “Millennium” to the Christians and described as “prior to Doomsday; Golden Age” by Prophet Muhammad (may Allah bless him and grant him peace).

In Judaic sources, the descriptions of both the portents of the period when the Mahdi will appear in the End Times and the Golden Age under his rule have a great deal in common with those in Islamic texts. Both faiths state that at first, people will turn their backs on religious moral values. For that reason, they will suffer many difficulties and that following a time of troubles, an age of beauty and light will dawn. In the same way, a great many New Testament passages describing the signs of the End Times, as well as the age when religious moral values will reign supreme, are in agreement with Islamic sources.

This book also includes hadiths of our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) and statements by Islamic scholars, together with sections from the Old and New Testaments. You will see for yourself how closely those portents of the age prior to the coming of the blessed Mahdi match conditions of this present day.

In addition, this book explains how the “tribe” Israelites whose rule is promised in the Old Testament is actually the community of the Mahdi. True faith, rather than genealogy, will distinguish the community of the Mahdi. The Mahdi and his community will be known for the

success they achieve for Allah. Whoever Allah makes a means in destiny for the dominion of the religion, it will be them and they who manifest that title.

All believers hope for true religious moral values to rule the world and for people to be liberated from all kinds of spiritual and material difficulties. As can be seen in the portents of the Mahdi's coming, many events currently taking place indicate that this long awaited holy age, has finally begun. Like all believers, we pray that Allah will let us witness this holy age and take part in the intellectual struggle that will spread religious moral values across the world.

• THE COMING OF THE MAHDI IS ANNOUNCED IN ALL THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

The “End Times,” that period immediately preceding the end of the world, will contain a series of portents that Allah has revealed in all the sacred scriptures. In this special age, when chaos and strife reach their fiercest level, when people are as far removed from religious moral values as they can possibly be, when degeneration is at a peak, our Lord will send the Mahdi—“he who gives the way to salvation.” With his powerful love and fear of Allah Who has sent him to fulfil this important task, the Mahdi will be a means of salvation for the whole world. By Allah’s will, the Mahdi will be successful in this duty, as is written in his destiny, and will cause religious moral values to reign supreme.

For that reason, the appearance of the blessed Mahdi will be one of the greatest events in history, one that is mentioned in all the sacred scriptures. The blessed Mahdi has been awaited not just since the time of our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace), but for many thousands of years. The hadith of our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) reveal that the coming of the Mahdi is described in all the sacred texts revealed by Allah:

Naim has stated: “**I find the Mahdi thus in the pages of the prophets (in the scriptures revealed to Adam, Seth, Idris and Abraham [peace be upon them]):** There will be no cruelty and nothing shameful in the actions of the Mahdi.” (Al-Burhan fi Alamat al-Mahdi Akhir al-zaman, p. 21.)

The books of the prophets reveal that “The work of the Mahdi is not cruel and evil.” (Al-Qawl Al-Mukhtasar Fi alamat Al-Mahdi Al-Muntazar, p. 49.)

Ibn al-Munawi says: “**Thus it is written in the book of Daniel (pbuh).** There are three sufyan and three Mahdis. The first Mahdi will oppose the first sufyan when his notoriety spreads, the second Mahdi will oppose the second sufyan, and the blessed Muhammad **the Mahdi** will oppose the third sufyan, and by means of him, Almighty Allah will save those previously subject to persecution and believers. The sunnahs will be revived with him; the flames of innovation [bid’ah] will be extinguished with him. People will be mighty in his day and will overcome their opponents. They will have pleasant lives, the fertility of the earth and sky will rise, and the Mahdi will then die seven years later. (This hadith is to be found in a handwritten copy of Al-Burhan fi Alamat al-Mahdi Akhir al-zaman in the Suleymaniye Library.)

These hadiths make it clear that all Abrahamic religions deal with the subject of the Mahdi. Thousands of years ago, both the Old and New Testaments described, the coming of the Mahdi, his qualities and activities, and the religious supremacy for which he will be a vehicle. Such passages can be seen in those parts of the Old and the New Testaments, no matter how corrupted these scriptures may have become today, that are compatible with the verses of the Qur’an and the hadiths of our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace).

That the scriptures revealed by Allah contain descriptions of the coming of the Mahdi, thousands of years before the fact, is another proof of this event’s enormous significance. The attributes and activities of the Mahdi, Allah’s final herald and bearer of warnings, are of the greatest importance in the End Times, so close to Doomsday. In addition, all believers have a major

responsibility to make everyone aware of this vital issue and to be the spiritual supporters of this holy person.

FOLLOWING THE TRUE FAITH OF PROPHET ABRAHAM (PBUH)

Muslims and the People of the Book—Jews and Christians—have different laws. But true believers, of what ever faith, live by the same fundamental values: absolute faith in Allah; never ascribing equals to Him under any circumstances, and living for His mercy, approval and eventually, paradise. All these communities have a responsibility to obey to the letter the commandments Allah has issued to them, to willingly submit themselves to our Lord for His mercy, and to compete in the performance of good deeds. Members of all three faiths, who believe in the existence and oneness of Allah and in the Hereafter and who perform good works, are actually adherents of the true faith revealed by our Lord to Prophet Abraham (pbuh).

Prophet Abraham (pbuh) is one of the holy and elect prophets and a friend of Allah. He called on the society to which he was sent to abandon polytheism and to believe in the One and Only Allah. He was a holy servant of Allah, whose honesty and excellent moral values are models for everyone. In the Qur'an, Allah reveals that those who believe in Him and who willingly submit, like Prophet Abraham (pbuh), are actually believers:

Who could have a better religion than someone who submits himself completely to Allah and is a good-doer, and follows the religion of Abraham, a man of pure natural belief? Allah took Abraham as an intimate friend. (Surat an-Nisa', 125)

The faith of Prophet Abraham (pbuh) is referred to as a "pure" belief in the Qur'an. Pure belief characterizes a devout individual who surrenders to Allah's commands and never strays from His religion in any way. In one verse, Allah tells Prophet Muhammad (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) to abide by the pure belief of Prophet Abraham (pbuh):

Then We revealed to you: "Follow the religion of Abraham, a man of pure natural belief. He was not one of the idolaters." (Surat an-Nahl, 123)

The sons, grandsons and other true believers who descended from Prophet Abraham (pbuh) abided by the true belief that Allah imparted to him. This is how this fact is revealed in the Qur'an:

Who would deliberately renounce the religion of Abraham except someone who reveals himself to be a fool? We chose him in the world and in the Hereafter he will be one of the righteous. When his Lord said to him, "Become a Muslim!" he said, "I am a Muslim who has submitted to the Lord of all the worlds." Abraham directed his sons to this, as did Jacob: "My sons! Allah has chosen this religion for you, so do not die except as Muslims." Or were you present when death came to Jacob and he said to his sons, "What will you worship when I have gone?" They said, "We will worship your God, the God of your forefathers, Abraham, Ishmael and Isaac—one God. We are Muslims submitted to Him." (Surat al-Baqara, 130-133)

As the above extract shows, the word *Muslim* means “one who has submitted to God.” Prophet Abraham’s (pbuh) pure belief is common to Jews, Christians and Muslims. Belief in Prophet Abraham (pbuh), the love and respect felt for him, are important for Muslims in the same way as they are for Jews and Christians. However, those closest to Prophet Abraham (pbuh) represents a role model for all believers. His joyous faith in and profound love for Allah, his willing submission to all our Lord’s commandments, his obedience and his superior moral values all comply with the morality he preached. As our Lord reveals in the Qur’an:

The people with the strongest claim to Abraham are those who followed him and this Prophet and those who believe. (Surah Al’Imran, 68)

Therefore, Jews and Christians who genuinely believe in Allah must, like Prophet Abraham (pbuh) and the true believers who followed him, take their excellent moral values, sincerity and profundity as role models. No doubt, one of the best ways for believers to demonstrate their love, obedience and closeness to the prophets is to strive for purity, like them. Muslims believe in all the revelations given to all prophets, making no distinctions between them.

Say, “We believe in Allah and what has been sent down to us and what was sent down to Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and the tribes, and what Moses and Jesus were given, and what all the prophets were given by their Lord. We do not differentiate between any of them. We are Muslims submitted to Him.” (Surat al-Baqara, 136)

In addition, all the prophets throughout history have preached a religious morality—that of the only true faith in the eyes of Allah. The prophets Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Jesus, Noah, Shuaib (peace be upon them all) and all the other prophets all preached unconditional belief in Allah and called on people to live for His approval alone and to abide by His commandments.

As one verse reveals:

He has laid down the same religion for you as He enjoined on Noah: that which We have revealed to you and which We enjoined on Abraham, Moses and Jesus. (Surat ash-Shura, 13)

As you see, the faith revealed to Jews and Christians is essentially the same, despite a few differences in stipulations. The members of all three faiths are also essentially the descendants of Prophet Abraham (pbuh). Like Muslims, Jews and Christians also share a responsibility to abide by the pure faith of Prophet Abraham (pbuh), ascribing no equals to Allah.

Another verse of the Qur’an tells all believers how they have a duty to comply with the faith of Prophet Abraham (pbuh):

They say, “Be Jews or Christians and you will be guided.” Say, “Rather adopt the religion of Abraham, a man of natural pure belief. He was not one of the polytheists.” (Surat al-Baqara, 135)

In Jewish and Christian scriptures, many expressions, commandments and ethical considerations (those that have not been corrupted) bear the closest similarity to the Qur'an. (For detailed information, see *A Call for Unity*, by Harun Yahya.)

IN THE END TIMES, RELIGIOUS MORAL VALUES WILL GOVERN THE WORLD

Allah has promised in Qur'an that He will cause the moral values of Islam, the true faith, to reign supreme on Earth and to give power and dominion to His believing servants. This promise, which by God's permission will come true, is revealed in the Qur'an:

Allah has promised those of you who believe and do right actions that He will make them successors in the land as He made those before them successors, and will firmly establish for them their religion with which He is pleased and give them, in place of their fear, security... (Surat an-Nur, 55)

They desire to extinguish Allah's light with their mouths, but Allah will perfect His light, though the unbelievers hate it. It is He Who sent His Messenger with guidance and the Religion of Truth to exalt it over every other religion, though the polytheists hate it. (Surat as-Saff, 8-9)

They desire to extinguish Allah's light with their mouths. But Allah refuses to do other than perfect His light, even though the unbelievers detest it. It is He Who sent His Messenger with guidance and the Religion of Truth to exalt it over every other religion, even though the polytheists detest it. (Sura at-Tawba, 32-33)

As revealed in the Qur'an, the rule of Islamic moral values is a promise of Allah's, one which our Lord will indubitably keep. The moral values to reign over the world will be those of the true faith in the eyes of our Lord. That faith is the pure faith of Prophet Abraham (pbuh), and the fact that these moral values are those of Islam is revealed in these terms in the Qur'an:

The religion with Allah is Islam. . . . (Surah Al'Imran, 19)

In the Qur'an, it is also revealed that communities of the faithful will most certainly have a leader at their head. In the End Times, the period through which we are living, the Mahdi will lead the faithful under the moral values of Islam, as is revealed in *mutawatir* (authentic) hadith of our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace).

Several hadiths reveal that the name of the Mahdi will be compatible with that of our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace). Some of these hadiths read as follows:

O People, certain it is that Almighty Allah has forbidden you the oppressors, the hypocrites, and those who follow them, and has made the Mahdi, the most auspicious of the community of Muhammad, he who is in Mecca, whose name is Ahmad, son of Abdullah, your leader. Join him. (Al-Qawl Al-Mukhtasar Fi alamat Al-Mahdi Al-Muntazar, p. 31.)

A voice will be heard from the sky: "O People, Allah has now removed the despots, the hypocrites and their helpers from you. He has placed the most auspicious of the Community of

Muhammad at your head. Join him in Mecca. He is the Mahdi. His name is Ahmad bin Abdullah. Another account states: "He has appointed Jabir, the most auspicious of the Community of Muhammad, over you. Join him in Mecca, for he is the Mahdi. His name is Muhammad bin Abdullah!" (Alamat al-Qiyama, Madina Allama Muhammad bin Rasul al-Hussain al-Barzanji, Pamuk Publishing, 8th edition, p. 165.)

The names "Muhammad," which is that of our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace), and "Ahmad"— which indicate the Mahdi in the hadith – stem from the same verb in Arabic; *Ahmad* means "worthy of the highest praise" or "the most lauded," while "Muhammad" means "praised over and over again." In terms of meaning therefore, and as revealed in the hadith, the two names are compatible with one another.

One indicative verse on this subject reads:

. . . I am the Messenger of Allah. . . giving you the good news of a Messenger after me whose name is Ahmad. . . (Surat as-Saff, 6)

In Judaic sources, this individual who will establish dominion is referred to as the Messiah (or "anointed king"). The important thing, however, is not the name given to this person, who may be called by various names. What is certain is Allah's promise of the rule of the moral values of Islam. There will be a community of true believers and at their head, a holy individual who will be a means whereby this comes about.

The Messiah Awaited by the Jews and the Mahdi Awaited by Muslims Are One and the Same Holy Personage

The term "Messiah," also known as the "awaited savior" in the revealed faiths, is manifested as the Mahdi in Islamic belief. The system of the Mahdi in Islam appears as the "Messiah" in Judaic scriptures. However, Prophet Jesus (pbuh), whose second coming as the Messiah is awaited by Christians, is not the Mahdi. Muslims also believe that Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will return to Earth during the End Times; however, when Prophet Jesus (pbuh) does return, he will do so as a follower of the Mahdi—with whom, by Allah's leave, he will help Islamic moral values to prevail across the world.

According to reliable reports handed on from our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace), "Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will perform the prayer behind the Mahdi." (Al-Qawl Al-Mukhtasar Fi alamat Al-Mahdi Al-Muntazar, p. 24.)

This report appears as follows in other hadiths:

The Prophet Jesus will appear from the sky and accept his sovereignty. People will say to the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) **"Lead the prayer," but he will respond, "The sovereign is among you."** He will say, "This is a gift of Allah to the community of Muhammad." (Al-Qawl Al-Mukhtasar Fi alamat Al-Mahdi Al-Muntazar, p. 24.)

When the Mahdi is performing the morning prayer with the faithful at the Bayt al-Maqdis, Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will appear, and the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will place his hands on his shoulder and say, "The call to the prayer has been issued for you, so you must lead it," and finally the Mahdi will lead the Prophet Jesus (as) and the faithful in prayer. (Al-Qawl Al-Mukhtasar Fi alamat Al-Mahdi Al-Muntazar, p. 25.)

It is also revealed in authentic hadith of our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) that Prophet Jesus (pbuh) and the Mahdi will appear at the same time and fight together to impose Islamic moral values over the world. These facts, which appear in several authentic hadiths, show that Prophet Jesus (pbuh) and the Mahdi will meet when they appear, and will have a dialogue between them.

The Messiah awaited by the Jews, on the other hand, is in fact the blessed Mahdi. In Judaic texts, the term "Messiah" is also used to refer to all kings, high priests and some warriors, so that the concept is used to describing those "charged with serving and close to God." However, the Messiah awaited by the Jews is an envoy, a religious leader who will be sent by Allah in the End Times, bring the world under his dominion and, by the will of Allah, turn people towards His path. And this description fits the Mahdi in Islam.

In addition, an examination of the Old Testament and other Judaic scriptures shows that the individual described as the Messiah possesses the characteristics of the blessed Mahdi, and that their activities and changes these two will bring about in the world are exactly the same. For that reason, the Messiah awaited by the Jews is really the Mahdi.

In the hadiths of our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace), the Mahdi's resemblance to the People of Israel, the descendants of the prophets, is highly significant. Some of the hadiths on this subject read as follows:

The blessed Mahdi's stature and posture resemble those of the People of Israel. (Al-Qawl Al-Mukhtasar Fi alamat al-Mahdi al-Muntadhar, pp. 36-29.)

His body is an Israelite one. (Al-Burhan fi Alamat al-Mahdi Akhir al-zaman, p. 24.)

The Mahdi is like one of the People of Israel. (His demeanor resembles theirs, it is majestic and wise) (Al-Burhan fi Alamat al-Mahdi Akhir al-zaman, pp. 23-30.)

The blessed Mahdi has an Israelite body. He resembles one of the greatest of the People of Israel. (Ibn Hajar al-Makki)

His body is like that one of an Israelite. (Mar'i ibn Yusuf al-Maqdisi, Fera Idu Fevaidd'l Fiqr Fi'l Imam al-Mahdi al-Muntadhar)

He will resemble one of the Israelites [in his external appearance]. (Al-Uqayli, An-Najmu's-saqib fi Bayan Anna'l Mahdi min Awladi Ali b. Abu Talib Ale't-Tamam ve'l Qamal)

It is as if he is a man from the people of Israel. (Nuaym ibn Hammad, vr. 52a; Mar'i ibn Yusuf al-Maqdisi, Fera Idu Fevaidi'l Fiqr Fi'l Imam al-Mahdi al-Muntadhar)

Allah reveals in the Qur'an that He has chosen and sanctified Prophet Abraham (pbuh) and his line (Surat al-Baqara, 130, Surah Al'Imran, 33). The same information also appears in the Judaic Old Testament (Genesis, 22:17, 12:2).

THE DOMINION PROMISED TO THE HEIRS OF PROPHET ABRAHAM (PBUH), AND THE MAHDI'S DESCENT FROM THE LINE OF PROPHET ABRAHAM (PBUH), ACCORDING TO JUDAIC SOURCES

The line of Prophet Abraham (pbuh) continued with his two sons, the prophets Ishmael and Isaac (peace be upon them). Throughout the course of history, a large number of prophets descended from Prophet Isaac (pbuh) came to the Israelites: the prophets Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron, Jonah, Job, Elijah, David, Solomon, Zaccariah, John and Jesus (peace be upon them). Descended from the line of Prophet Ishmael are the Prophet of Islam, Muhammad (may Allah bless him and grant him peace), teachers from his line and finally the Imam Muhammad al-Mahdi.

Therefore, the People of Israel, the People of Isaac and the People of Ishmael referred to in the Old Testament are all from the line of Prophet Abraham (pbuh). All are descended from Prophet Abraham, one sanctified by God. The holy personage who bears the title of “he who bestows the path of salvation” in the Abrahamic religions—and who will appear in the End Times as a means whereby the moral values of true belief come to rule the world—is also descended from Prophet Abraham (pbuh). This means that the Mahdi himself is descended from Prophet Abraham (pbuh).

Allah Promises Dominion to the Line of Prophet Abraham (pbuh)

Allah protected the two branches of the descendants of Prophet Abraham (pbuh) in order for them to establish their dominion. In the End Times, He will unite the Imam al-Mahdi and Prophet Jesus (pbuh) in order for that promise to be fulfilled. This period of dominion, revealed in the Qur'an and in the hadiths of our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace), is also promised in the Old Testament to a community descended from the line of Prophet Abraham (pbuh):

I will bless you greatly, and increase your offspring like the stars of the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your offspring shall inherit their enemies' gate; all the nations of the world shall be blessed through your descendants—all because you obeyed My voice. (Genesis 22:17-18)

God said to Abraham: . . . I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you great; You shall become a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and he who curses you, I will curse. All the families of the Earth will be blessed through you. (Genesis 12:1-3)

I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars of the sky, and grant them all these lands. All the nations on Earth shall be blessed through your descendants. (Genesis 26:4)

Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on Earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. (Genesis 28:14)

Parts of the Old Testament that describe how true believers of Allah will wield power on Earth and how religious moral values will prevail in the End Times, the final age of this world:

The Lord replied, "I have forgiven them, as you asked. Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the Lord fills the whole Earth." (Numbers 14:20-21)

. . . the meek will inherit the land and enjoy great peace. . . for the power of the wicked will be broken, the Lord upholds the righteous. The days of the blameless are known to the Lord and their inheritance will endure forever. . . (Psalm 37:11, 17-18)

All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, for dominion belongs to the Lord. (Psalm 22:27-28)

For evil men will be cut off, but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land. A little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look for them, they will not be found. (Psalm 37:9-10)

. . . for the power of the wicked will be broken, but the Lord upholds the righteous. . . the wicked will perish: The Lord's enemies will be like the beauty of the fields, they will vanish—vanish like smoke. (Psalm 37:17, 20)

Wait for the Lord and keep his way. . . The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord. . . The Lord helps them and delivers them; he delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in him. (Psalm 37:34, 39-40)

As these passages make clear, the "dominion" described in the Old Testament is not that of one specific group or race over other communities, but that of the moral values of the true faith—commanded to everyone by Allah—over the world. However, the Old Testament contains a number of references to the supposed racial superiority and dominion of the Jews. The expressions in question stem from the misinterpretation of the good news imparted to devout believers when the Old Testament was revealed and these misinterpretations were included in the Old Testament after Prophet Moses (pbuh). Some Jews misinterpret this to mean that their own race or society will rule the world. That is incompatible with religious moral values, and not a reflection of the true facts.

In fact, the concept of "the dominion of the moral values of the religion," which exists in Islam, is the eradication of evils and difficulties stemming from religious moral values not being complied with on Earth with the commencement of that compliance, and the spread of moral virtues. Muslims hope that the moral values commanded by Allah—namely, solidarity, justice, honesty, loyalty, modesty, forgiveness and compassion—will form the basis of relations between people, and construct an environment wherein everyone competes to behave in accord with moral values to attain Allah's pleasure. The establishment of such a climate will undoubtedly eradicate all evils stemming from the lack of these virtues. Muslims who share that understanding aim not to possess

power and sovereignty, but to use any blessings Allah bestows on them in the finest manner in order to spread the moral values of the faith.

This excellent attribute of Muslims is revealed in the Qur'an:

. . .those who, if We establish them firmly on the Earth, will establish the prayer and pay alms, and command what is right and forbid what is wrong. The end result of all affairs is with Allah. (Surat al-Hajj, 41)

The Features of the Community That is Promised Dominion in the Old Testament

Allah has told the Jews that if they remain loyal to the true faith, obey the prophets and believe in Him alone, He will bestow superiority on them. The characteristics of the servants to whom Allah has promised dominion are described in these terms in the Old Testament:

If you carefully safeguard and keep this entire Mandate that I prescribe to you today, [and if you] love God, walk in all His ways, and cling to Him, then God will drive out all these nations before you. You will expel nations that are greater and stronger than you are. Every area upon which your feet tread shall belong to you. (Deuteronomy 11:22-24)

Devotion to Allah, scrupulous implementation of His commandments and love of Him are revealed as preconditions for the dominion of the People of Israel. In the continuation of this passage from the Old Testament, Jews are offered two choices; blessings if they choose faith, or tribulation if they turn their backs on it:

You can therefore see that I am placing before you both a blessing and a curse. **The blessing [will come] if you obey the commandments of God your Lord,** which I am prescribing to you today. **The curse [will come] if you do not obey the commandments of God your Lord, and you go astray from the path that I am prescribing for you, following the gods of others, which you have not known.** (Deuteronomy 11:26-28)

The characteristics of the society that is promised dominion are also described as follows in the Old Testament:

. . . God your Lord, is the Supreme Being. God is the faithful, who keeps in mind [His] covenant and love for a thousand generations when it comes to those who love Him and keep His commandments. (Deuteronomy 7:9-10)

. . . love the Lord your God, listen to His voice, and hold fast to Him. . . He will give you many years in the land He swore . . . (Deuteronomy 30:20)

God will then **grant you a good surplus in all the work of your hands,** in the fruit of your womb, the fruit of your livestock, and the fruit of your land. God will once again rejoice in you for

good, just as He rejoiced in your fathers. **All this will happen when you obey God your Lord, keeping all His commandments and decrees, as they are written in this book of the Torah, and when you return to God your Lord with all your heart and soul.** (Deuteronomy 30:9-10)

Elsewhere in the Old Testament, it is revealed that dominion is promised to those who fear Allah:

Who, then, is the man that **fears the Lord**? . . . He will spend his days in prosperity, and his **descendants will inherit the land.** The Lord confides in those who fear him. (Psalm 25:12-14)

Again in the Old Testament, it is revealed that those who place their trust in Allah, who are humble, who take pleasure from their belief in Allah, will inherit dominion and His blessings:

Trust in the Lord and do good. . . . Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him. . . **those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land. . . the meek will inherit the land** and enjoy great peace. (Psalm 37:3-5, 9, 11)

. . . **if you keep the commands of the Lord your God and walk in His ways.** . . The Lord will grant you abundant prosperity—in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground—in the land he swore to your forefathers to give you. The Lord will open the good treasure in the heavens, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. The Lord will make you the head, not the tail. **If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom. Do not turn aside from any of the commands I give you today, to the right or to the left, following other gods and serving them.** (Deuteronomy 28:9-14)

When the features of the society to which dominion is promised in the Old Testament are considered as a whole, it appears that the people on whom Allah will bestow sovereignty will have the following qualities:

- Living in Allah's path,
- Turning to Allah in all ways,
- Scrupulously obeying all His commandments,
- Loving Allah,
- Fearing Him,
- Ascribing no equals to Allah,
- Remaining loyal and faithful to Him,
- Trusting in Allah,
- Taking pleasure from belief in Allah,
- Doing good deeds, and
- Being humble.

The dominion in the Old Testament is that of the moral values of the true faith, of which believers have been told. As it is stated in the verse 85 of Surah Al'Imran, **“If anyone desires anything other than Islam as a religion, it will not be accepted from Him . . .”** That true faith in the eyes of Allah is Islam.

THE “PEOPLE OF ISRAEL” REFERRED TO IN THE OLD TESTAMENT IS THE COMMUNITY OF THE MAHDI

The attributes of the Mahdi who will appear in the End Times, and of his community, and of the glorious period they will usher in are described in considerable detail in the holy scriptures of the Abrahamic religions. These descriptions are surprisingly similar in all three faiths. Today, the appearance of hundreds of proofs, of an environment described many centuries in the past, shows that the coming of the Mahdi is now very close at hand.

According to the hadiths of our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace), the Mahdi and his community will perform very important actions, highly beneficial for the future of all mankind. But initially, they will not be recognized and will have no supporters, apart from a very small community of believers. However, those able to seeing with the eyes of faith will recognize the Mahdi and his community through the excellent impression they make. His success in spreading the faith of Allah will make it clear that he possesses the true rank of Mahdi.

One verse says that the People of the Book will recognize our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) as they recognize “their own sons”:

Those We have given the Book recognize it as they recognize their own sons. Yet a group of them knowingly conceal the truth. (Surat al-Baqara, 146)

In figurative terms, this verse also indicates that the Mahdi, too, will be recognized. (Allah knows best) When the Mahdi appears, people will recognize him as they do their own sons, in the light of our Prophet’s (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) descriptions. Yet some people will nevertheless fail to recognize this holy personage and will persist in their denial.

Pure Faith, Not Pure Race, Is the Measure in Allah’s Promise of Dominion

Some Jews maintain that the society referred to in terms of dominion in the Old Testament is the Jewish race. In fact, however, that the rule to be established in the End Times is that of true faith, not of genealogical superiority. It will be the result of faith and moral superiority.

Today, the great majority of Jews clearly share no such unity of belief and do not exhibit the kind of moral superiority that will help religious moral values to rule on Earth. (Sincere believers are beyond this.) This shortcoming is admitted by devout Jews, and even criticized and condemned. Clearly, whoever possesses the qualities of the society promised dominion in the Old Testament, Allah will make them the means whereby the faith’s moral values prevail. To put it another way, those who will bring about the dominion of religious moral values are believers of sincere faith, who fear and respect Allah, who maintain the moral virtues He has commanded, who are obedient to Him, and who live by love and compassion. Dominion is promised to true believers, not to any particular community or race.

It is a grave error for any to imagine that they have been promised dominion solely on the grounds that they are members of the Jewish people. What matters is not whether or not someone is Jewish, but his devotion to Allah, to His prophets and the moral values of the faith, and his obedience and submission. If anyone denies the existence of Allah or fails to appreciate His might properly; if he does not believe in religion or fails to abide completely by its moral values; if he does not believe in the prophets or does not comply with their Sunnah, then his race or line of descent makes no difference at all. If someone who does not believe in Allah and has not truly surrendered to Him, it is irrelevant whether that person is descended from the prophets Abraham, Jacob or Moses (peace be upon them). In any case, such a person has rejected the prophets from whose very line he is descended. Merely being descended from the prophets does not confer holiness on a person in the absence of true faith. The ancestry of someone who rejects the prophets Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses (peace be upon them), who does not love and fear Allah, is of no importance in Allah's sight.

Allah has revealed in the Qur'an that fear [and respect] of Allah is the only measure that confers any value on someone in His sight:

The noblest among you in Allah's sight is the one who most fear [and respect] Allah. Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware. (Surat al-Hujurat, 13)

Another verse reveals the finest outcome that awaits those who fear and respect Allah:

. . . So be steadfast. The best end result is for those who fear and respect Allah. (Surah Hud, 49)

Those who fear and respect Him are those who hope for such an outcome from Allah by striving on His path, who hope for no other reward than His good pleasure, who have dedicated their lives and belongings to Allah, who have a great fear of and passionate love for Him. They are the true heirs of Allah for the dominion of the moral values of the true faith.

In conclusion, the fundamental requirement in Allah's promise of dominion is true faith. The accounts of and references to dominion in the Old Testament are not limited to any one particular nation. Muslims—in other words, those who have surrendered to Allah—and anyone who truly believes without ascribing any equals to Him, are “the People of Israel” as described in the Old Testament. To put it another way, the “People of Israel” is another name of those who are Muslims (who have surrendered themselves to Allah).

The community chosen and promised dominion by Allah, as revealed in verse 55 of Surat an-Nur, will possess the following qualities:

- 1) Believing in Allah,
- 2) Doing right actions,
- 3) Ascribing no equals to Allah, and
- 4) Worshipping Allah alone.

The dominion promised by Allah is directed towards such a community. Otherwise, it could hardly be expected that a people descended from the People of Israel, but lacking any devout belief, could rule the world.

It is also wrong to look to race alone as a precondition. It is impossible for ethnic groups to have lived in close proximity over the course of centuries without intermixing. Nor is it possible for the lines of the prophets Isaac and Ishmael, sons of the Prophet Abraham (peace be upon them), to have survived uncontaminated. Obviously, what is being referred to is unity of belief, not genealogy.

In the Book of Genesis (28: 7-10), it is revealed that the son of Prophet Isaac (pbuh) married Prophet Ishmael's (pbuh) daughter. This event described in the Old Testament represents a clear example of how lines of descent became intermingled right from the outset. Furthermore, descendants of the prophets Isaac and Ishmael (peace be upon them) who lived in areas very close to one another, have close family ties. That being so, be the line of Prophet Isaac (pbuh) cannot have survived uncontaminated down to the present day and the Jews cannot claim to be of this "pure" race. Therefore, the community that will be given dominion is not any specific line, but a group that will adhere to the pure moral values of Prophet Abraham (pbuh) –or to give it its modern-day name, Islam.

In addition, Allah has revealed in the Qur'an that all envoys represent one single line:

Allah chose Adam and Noah and the family of Abraham and the family of 'Imran over all other beings—descendants one of the other. Allah is All-Hearing, All-Knowing. (Surah Al 'Imran, 33-34)

In Surat al-An'am, Allah refers to envoys coming from each others' lines:

Those who believe and do not mix up their belief with any wrongdoing, they are the ones who are safe; it is they who are guided. This is the argument We gave to Abraham against his people. We raise in rank anyone We will. Your Lord is All-Wise, All-Knowing. We gave him Isaac and Jacob, each of whom We guided. And before him We had guided Noah. And among his descendants were David and Solomon, and Job, Joseph, Moses and Aaron. That is how We recompense the good-doers. And Zaccariah, John, Jesus and Elijah. All of them were among the righteous. And Ishmael, Eljada, Jonah and Lot. All of them We favored over all beings. And some of their forebears, descendants and brothers; We chose them and guided them to a straight path. (Surat al-An'am, 82-87)

All the prophets are related to one another. Any reference to the line of Prophet Jacob, or Prophet Solomon, or Prophet David (peace be upon them) also encapsulates the line of Prophet Abraham (pbuh), and dominion is promised to Prophet Abraham (pbuh), of the line of the prophets. Prophet Muhammad (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) is also a member of this holy line. The hadiths also state that the blessed Mahdi will come from that same line. Everyone who can trace his lineage back to this line is popularly known as a "sayyid." The Mahdi will be a sayyid.

In those hadiths of our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace), it is revealed that:

Abu Dawud reported a hadith from Abd Allah ibn Masud: The Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) said, "If there were only one day left for the world, that day would be lengthened until a man from among my descendants or from among the people of my household [the Mahdi], was sent."

Days and nights will not come to an end until a man from the People of my House [the Mahdi] will prevail. (Al-Uqayli, An-Najmu's-saqib)

The Mahdi and His Community Are Predetermined in Destiny

A human being is no more than a spectator of his own destiny and the world's. No one can change the course of that destiny. Similarly, making judgments about that destiny, submitting to or objecting to it, can in no way alter the promises Allah has set out in destiny. Whomsoever Allah chooses— whoever serves as a vehicle whereby religious moral values are brought to rule the world—that individual will be the Mahdi.

Otherwise, nobody can stand up and claim to be the Mahdi. The rank of Mahdi is not based upon claims to be him, neither is it a rank that can be attained through hard work. In order for someone to be the Mahdi, that must be written in his destiny; he needs to have been created as the Mahdi.

As set out in the hadiths and in analyses by Islamic scholars, the Mahdi will be known more by his actions than by his lineage. The Mahdi's and his community's main activity will be waging an intellectual struggle against atheism and spreading the true faith all over the world. The Mahdi who will inflict an intellectual defeat on atheism, who will reveal the proofs of Allah's existence, and who, by spreading moral values across the world, will be a means whereby people turn to faith. In the absence of these activities and phenomena, it is meaningless for any individual or group to make any claims about the identity of the Mahdi.

SIGNS OF THE MAHDI IN THE OLD TESTAMENT AND OTHER JUDAIC TEXTS

Belief in the coming of the Mahdi is one of Judaism's fundamental beliefs. Ever since the 12th century, the Jews have regarded Rabbi Maimonides (or in Arabic, Ibn Maimun) as the greatest scholar of the Old Testament. Maimonides stated that of the 13th fundamental dogma of Judaism, the 12th was "To believe in the coming of the Messiah [Mahdi]." According to these principles, Jewish belief regarding the Mahdi is set out as follows: "I sincerely believe in the coming of the Messiah [Mahdi], and even if his coming is delayed, I await his coming every day."

The Mishnah, one of the Judaic scriptures, describes the position of those who deny the coming of the Mahdi:

Whoever does not believe in him, or does not await his coming, denies not only [the statements of] the other prophets, but also [those of] the Torah and of Moshe, our teacher. . . . (Maimonides, Mishnah Torah, Laws of Kings 11:1)

In addition, the Shmoneh Esrei prayer, which Jews perform three times every day, refers to the coming of the Mahdi being close at hand. They recite this prayer in the expectation of the Mahdi, for the reconstruction of justice as a requirement of religious moral values, for immorality, sin and evil to come to an end, and for the truth to prevail.

This section contains those parts of the distorted Torah that concern the Mahdi and that agree with the verses of the Qur'an and the hadiths of our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace).

THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE APPEARANCE OF THE MAHDI IN JUDAIC SOURCES

According to Jewish tradition, before the appearance of the Mahdi (or Messiah, as they refer to him), there will be a huge moral collapse stemming from atheism. People's feelings of shame will decline. Pride and oppression will grow. No one will have any compassion, the devout will be reviled, and corruption and denial will spread. On the larger scale, there will be a succession of wars and oppression. The lands will become increasingly less fertile, and the cost of living, famine and poverty will increase.

Some of the features of this period preceding the coming of the Mahdi are described in Judaic scriptures:

1. *The appearance of portents in the End Times:*

And I . . . am about to come and gather all nations and tongues, and they will come and see my glory. I will set a sign among them. . . . (Isaiah 66:18-19)

2. *The spread of atheism*

The generation in which [the Mahdi] will come. . . all the governments will be turned over to Minuth (will embrace the religion of the Minim [atheism]), and no preaching will avail. . . . (Talmud, Sanhedrin 11:97a)

"Both prophet and priest are godless; even in my temple I find their wickedness," declares the Lord. (Jeremiah 23:11)

The [Mahdi] will not come until the whole world is converted to the belief of the heretics. (Talmud, Sanhedrin 11:97a)

3. *The abandonment of religious values*

In the generation in which the [Mahdi] will come. . . truth will be missing. (Talmud, Sanhedrin 97a)

4. *The reviling of the devout*

In the footsteps of the [Mahdi]. . . Fearers of sin will be despised, and truth will be lacking. (Talmud, Sotah 49b)

. . . and he that departs from evil makes himself a prey. . . . He who departs from evil will be dubbed a fool by his fellow-men. (Talmud, Sanhedrin 97a)

5. *Admiration of the wicked*

In the generation in which [the Mahdi] will come . . . an evil man will be honored. (Talmud, Sanhedrin 97a)

6. *The abandonment of religious education*

[The Mahdi] will not come. . . unless the disciples will decrease. (Talmud, Sanhedrin 11:97a)

7. *State leaders turn their backs on religious values*

In the footsteps of the [Mahdi] . . . The government will turn to heresy, and there will be none [to offer them] reproof. (Talmud, Sotah 49:2)

8. *Rulers become immature.*

And I will make children their chiefs, and foolish ones will have rule over them. (Isaiah, 3:4)

9. *A rise in female leaders*

. . . a babe is their master, and women rule over them. . . . (Isaiah 3:12)

10. *Leaders look to their own interests.*

The generation in which [the Mahdi] will come. . . The leaders of that generation will have the nature of dogs. (Talmud, Sanhedrin 97a)

. . . judges are wolves of the desert, they leave not a bone for the morrow. (Zephaniah 3:3)

11. *The wicked become strong.*

. . . They strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that no one turns from his wickedness□ . . . (Jeremiah 23:14)

. . . their course is evil, and their force is not right. . . . (Jeremiah 23:10)

Her princes in the midst of her are roaring lions. . . . (Zephaniah 3:3)

12. *No one is left to establish justice.*

The [Mahdi] will not come until all judges and officers are gone. . . . (Talmud, Sanhedrin, 98a)

13. *Increasing poverty*

[The Mahdi] will not come . . . until the pockets will be empty... (Talmud, Sanhedrin 97a)

14. *An increase in unfair earnings*

. . . the plunder of the poor is in your houses. . . . What do you mean by. . . grinding the faces of the poor? (Isaiah 3:14-15)

15. *Hunger and famine*

. . . in the seven-year cycle at the end of which the [Mahdi] will come. . . the arrows of hunger will be sent forth; . . . a great famine, in the course of which men, women, and children, pious men and saints will die. (Talmud, Sanhedrin 97a)

16. *The land becomes less fertile.*

. . . the vintage shall fail, the ingathering shall not come. Smiting upon the breasts for the pleasant fields, for the fruitful vine; for the land of my people whereon thorns and briers come up; yea, for all the houses of joy and the joyous city. (Isaiah 32:9-13)

. . . the seeds are shrivelled beneath the clods. The storehouses are in ruins, the granaries have been broken down, . . . flames have burned up all the trees of the field. . . (Joel 1:17, 19)

The fields are ruined, the ground mourns; the grain is destroyed . . . grieve for the wheat and the barley, because the harvest of the field is destroyed. (Joel 1:10-11)

17. *A decrease in sources of fresh water*

The [Mahdi] will not come until a fish is sought for an invalid and cannot be procured, as it is written, "Then will I make their waters deep, and cause their rivers to run like oil." (Talmud, Sanhedrin 98a)

. . . the water brooks are dried up. . . (Joel 1:20)

18. *Drought*

The earth dries up and withers, the world languishes and withers. . . (Isaiah 24:4)

. . . the pastures of the wilderness are dried up. . . (Jeremiah 23:10)

The vine withers. . . (Isaiah 24:7)

The vine is dried up and the fig tree is withered; the pomegranate, the palm and apple tree—all the trees of the field—are dried up. . . (Joel 1:12)

19. *Animals suffer.*

How the cattle moan! The herds mill about because they have no pasture; even the flocks of the sheep are suffering. . . even the wild animals pant for you. (Joel 1:18-20)

A similar plague will strike the horses and mules, the camels and donkeys, and all the animals in those camps. (Zechariah 14:15)

20. *A time of trial and tribulation*

The cry on the day of the Lord will be bitter the shouting of the warrior there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness. . . . (Zephaniah 1:14-15)

Therefore their path will become slippery; they will be banished to darkness and there they will fall. (Jeremiah 23:12)

. . . in the generation when the [Mahdi] will come, . . . and as for the rest [other than scholars], their eyes will fail through sorrow and grief. (Talmud, Sanhedrin 97a)

Let him [Mahdi] come... When one goes out into the field and meets a bailiff, it is as though he had met a lion. When he enters the town, and is accosted by a tax-collector, it is as though he had met a bear. On entering his house and finding his sons and daughters in the throes of hunger, it is as though he were bitten by a serpent! . . . Ask you now, and see whether a man travails with child? Wherefore do I see every man [geber] with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? (Talmud, Sanhedrin 98b)

21. *A succession of disasters*

. . . in the generation when the [Mahdi] will come, . . . evil decrees will be promulgated anew, each new evil coming with haste before the other has ended. (Talmud, Sanhedrin 97a)

“When will the [Mahdi] come?” He replied, “When darkness covers those people.” (Talmud, Sanhedrin 99a)

When you see a generation overwhelmed by many troubles as by a river, await him, as it is written, when the enemy shall come in like a flood. . . the Redeemer [the Mahdi] shall come. . . (Talmud, Sanhedrin 98a)

In the generation in which the [Mahdi] will come . . . [There will be] test after test. (Talmud, Kethuboth 112b)

. . . a curse consumes the earth. . . . (Isaiah 24:6)

Whoever flees at the sound of terror will fall into a pit; whoever climbs out of the pit will be caught in a snare... (Isaiah 24:18)

22. *A rise in corruption*

...in the generation when [the Mahdi] will come... Multitudes of trouble and evil decrees will be promulgated anew, each new evil coming with haste before the other has ended... (Talmud, Sanhedrin 97a)

O my people, your guides lead you astray; they turn you from the path. (Isaiah 3:12)

. . . But they were still eager to act corruptly in all they did. (Zephaniah 3:7)

23. *The rule of despair*

[The Mahdi] will not come . . . unless they will renounce their hope to be redeemed.
(Talmud, Sanhedrin 97a)

24. *The spread of prostitution*

In the generation in which the [Mahdi] will come, the houses of assembly will be converted into houses of prostitution. (Talmud, Sanhedrin 97a)

. . . and traded boys for prostitutes. . . . (Joel 3:3)

The land is full of adulterers. . . . (Jeremiah 23:10)

25. *A decline in people's sense of shame*

. . . in the generation when [Mahdi] comes . . . a son will not be abashed in his father's presence. (Talmud, Sanhedrin 97a)

Insolence will increase and honor dwindle. (Talmud, Sotah 49b)

A son will not feel ashamed before his father. (Talmud, Sotah 49b)

. . . the child shall behave insolently against the aged, and the base against the honorable.
(Isaiah 3:5)

26. *Increasing immorality*

The [Mahdi] will come only in a generation that is . . . altogether wicked. (Talmud, Sanhedrin 98a)

When you see a generation ever dwindling, hope for him [the Mahdi]. (Talmud, Sanhedrin 98a)

In the footsteps of the [Mahdi] . . . Youths will put old men to shame, the old will stand up in the presence of the young. (Talmud, Sotah 49b)

In the footsteps of the [Mahdi] . . . The meeting-place [of scholars] will be used for immorality. (Talmud, Sotah 49:2)

. . . all of them become . . . as Sodom, and . . . as Gomorrah . . . (Jeremiah 23:14)

27. *An increase in lies and fraud*

. . . [they] walk in lies. . . . (Jeremiah 23:14)

In the generation in which the [Mahdi] will come . . . [there will be] plunderers and plunderers of the plunderers. (Talmud, Kethuboth 112b)

. . . people shall oppress one another, every man his fellow, and every man his neighbour. . .
(Isaiah 3:5)

28. *Faces grow ugly.*

The face of the generation [of the Mahdi] will be like the face of a dog. . . . (Talmud, Sotah 49b)

29. *The marginalization of feelings of love and compassion*

In the footsteps of the [Mahdi]. . . The dwellers on the frontier will go about (begging) from place to place without anyone to take pity on them. . . . (Talmud, Sotah 49b)

30. *A growth of disrespect*

In the footsteps of the [Mahdi], insolence will increase... (Talmud, Sotah 49:2)

. . . [In the] generation in which [the Mahdi] will come, insolence will increase, . . . respect will be missed. . . . (Talmud, Sanhedrin 97a)

31. *Increasing rebelliousness*

. . . in the generation when [the Mahdi] comes, . . . daughters will rise up against their mothers, and daughters-in-law against their mothers-in-law. (Talmud, Sanhedrin 97a)

In the footsteps of the [Mahdi] . . . A son will revile his father. . . a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. (Talmud, Sotah 49b)

32. *A weakening of family ties*

In the footsteps of the [Mahdi] . . . a man's enemies will be the members of his household. . .
(Talmud, Sotah 49b)

33. *Rising numbers of hypocrites*

. . . the [Mahdi] will not come until denunciators are in abundance. (Talmud, Sanhedrin 97a)

The treacherous deal treacherously; yea, the treacherous deal very treacherously. (Isaiah, 24:16)

34. *A decline in the number of scholars*

. . . in the generation when the [Mahdi] will come, scholars will be few in number. . . .
(Talmud, Sanhedrin 97a)

35. *Intellectual bigotry*

In the footsteps of the [Mahdi] . . . The wisdom of the learned will degenerate. . . . (Talmud, Sotah 49:2)

In the generation in which the [Mahdi] will come, there will be prosecution against scholars. (Talmud, Kethuboth 112b)

. . . her priests have profaned that which is holy, they have done violence to the law [of God]. (Zephaniah 3:4)

36. *Increasing wars*

. . . in the seven-year cycle at the end of which the [Mahdi] will come. . . in the seventh, wars; and at the conclusion of the septennate the [Mahdi] will come. (Talmud, Sanhedrin 97a)

I will gather all the nations . . . to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile . . . (Zechariah 14:2)

And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. (Joel 2:30)

37. *Bloodshed in the Middle East*

“When will the [Mahdi] come?” . . . “give us a sign.” . . . the waters of the grotto of Paneas turn into blood. . . . (Talmud, Sanhedrin 98a)

Paneas: The name of an ancient city on the banks of the River Jordan, some 200 km from Jerusalem.

38. *Ruin in the Middle East*

In the footsteps of the [Mahdi]. . . Galilee* will be destroyed, Gablan** desolated. (Talmud, Sanhedrin 97a; Sotah 49:2)

**Galilee*: the region to the west of the River Jordan, consisting of the modern Israel and former Palestinian territory.

** *Gablan*: the region including part of the modern-day Golan Heights, northwest Jordan and southwest Syria.

39. *The killing of the innocent*

. . . they shed innocent blood. (Joel 3:19)

40. *Rising numbers of refugees*

And the dwellers on the frontier will go about [begging] from place to place without anyone to take pity on them. (Talmud, Sotah 49:2)

41. *An increase in rebellion and revolt*

. . . transgression thereof is heavy upon it, and it shall fall, and not rise again. (Isaiah 24:20)

42. *Looting*

The earth shall be utterly emptied, and despoiled. . . . (Isaiah 24:3)

. . . the houses rifled. . . . (Zeccariah 14:2)

43. *Premature aging among the young*

The generation in which the [Mahdi] will come, young men will make pale the faces of the old, old men will rise before youth. . . . (Talmud, Sanhedrin 97a)

44. *Signs in the bodies of those who oppose the truth*

This is the plague with which the Lord will strike all the nations that fought. . . their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their sockets, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth. (Zechariah 14:12)

. . . their words and deeds are against the Lord. . . . The look on their faces testifies against them; they parade their sin like Sodom; they do not hide it. . . . (Isaiah 3:8-9)

45. *Unhappiness*

. . . all the merry-makers groan. (Isaiah 24:7)

Surely the joy of mankind is withered away. (Joel 1:12)

. . . all joy turns to gloom, all gaiety is banished from the Earth. (Isaiah 24:11)

. . . the noise of the revelers has stopped. . . . (Isaiah 24:8)

46. *Despair among men of religion*

The priests are in mourning, those who minister before the Lord. (Joel 1:9)

Put on sackcloth, O priests, and mourn; wail, you who minister before the altar. (Joel 1:13)

47. *Eclipses of the Sun and Moon*

The sun and the moon become black, and the stars withdraw their shining. (Joel 3:15)

The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light. The rising sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light. (Isaiah 13:10)

The moon will be abashed, the sun ashamed. . . . (Isaiah 24:23)

48. *Earthquakes*

. . . the foundations of the Earth shake. . . the Earth is broken up, the Earth is split asunder, the Earth is thoroughly shaken. . . it sways like a hut in the wind. . . (Isaiah 24:18-20)

. . . the heavens and the earth shall shake. . . (Joel 3:16)

Therefore I will make the heavens to tremble, and the earth shall be shaken out of her place. (Isaiah 13:13)

The earth trembled and quaked, and the foundations of the mountains shook . . . The valleys of the sea were exposed and the foundations of the earth laid bare. . . (Psalm 18:7, 15)

49. *Ever more natural disasters*

The Lord of Armies will punish you with thunder, earthquakes, and loud noises, with windstorms, rainstorms, and fire storms. (Isaiah 29:6)

. . . I will show wonders in the heavens and on the Earth . . . (Joel 2:30)

. . . the windows on high are opened. (Isaiah 24:18)

50. *Floods in one region and drought in another*

. . . in the seven-year cycle at the end of which the [Mahdi] will come—in the first year, this verse will be fulfilled: And I will cause it to rain upon one city and cause it not to rain upon another city. (Talmud, Sanhedrin 97a)

51. *Locust attacks*

What the locust swarm has left the great locusts have eaten; what the great locusts have left the young locusts have eaten; what the young locusts have left other locusts have eaten. . . A nation has invaded my land, powerful and without number. . . (Joel 1:4,6)

52. *Rising environmental pollution*

The Earth is defiled by its people. . . (Isaiah 24:5)

53. *The coming of Prophet Elijah (pbuh) as the herald of the Mahdi*

“The travails of the [Mahdi]”: “day” is written here; whilst there it is written, Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. (Talmud, Shabbath 118a)

See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. (Malachi 4:5)

54. *Spiritual decline*

The [Mahdi] will only come when all the souls destined to [inhabit earthly] bodies will be exhausted. . . . (Talmud, 'Abodah Zarah 5a)

55. *War in Iraq*

An oracle concerning Babylon* that Isaiah . . . saw . . . (Isaiah 13:1)

55.1 *Distant countries wage war in Iraq*

. . . They come from faraway lands, from the ends of the heavens. . . to destroy the whole country. (Isaiah 13:5)

**Babylon*: Name of an ancient city in present-day Iraq

55.2 *The death of children and the young*

Their bows will strike down the young men; they will have no mercy on infants nor will they look with compassion on children. (Isaiah 13:18)

55.3 *The looting of people's homes*

. . . their houses will be looted. . . . (Isaiah 13:16)

55.4 *Enormous bloodshed*

Whoever is captured will be thrust through; all who are caught will fall by the sword. Their infants will be dashed to pieces before their eyes. . . . (Isaiah 13:15-16)

55.5 *The public in a state of fear and suffering*

Terror will seize them, pain and anguish will grip them. . . . (Isaiah 13:8)

55.6 *People flee to neighboring countries*

Like a hunted gazelle, like sheep without a shepherd, each will return to his own people, each will flee to his native land. (Isaiah 13:14)

55.7 *Cities deserted after the war*

But desert creatures will lie there, jackals will fill her houses; there the owls will dwell, and there the wild goats will leap about. Hyenas will howl in her strongholds, jackals in her luxurious palaces. . . . (Isaiah 13:21-22)

55.8 *The razing of Iraqi cities*

Babylon, the jewel of kingdoms. . . will be overthrown by God. (Isaiah 13:19)

56. *The appearance of the peoples of Gog and Magog*

"The travails of the [Mahdi]": "day" is written here. . . The wars of Gog and Magog: "day" is written here; whilst there it is written, in that day when Gog shall come. (Talmud, Shabbath 118a)

. . . and some in the war of Gog and Magog, and the remaining [period] will be the era [of the Mahdi]. (Talmud, Sanhedrin 97b)

56.1. *A vast population*

. . . all the hordes gathered. . . . (Ezekiel 38: 7)

. . . like a cloud that covers the land. . . . (Ezekiel 38: 16)

. . . all of them brandishing their swords. . . . (Ezekiel 38: 4)

56.2. *They constitute a multinational society.*

. . . many nations with you, all of them riding on horses. . . . (Ezekiel 38: 15)

You and all your troops and the many nations with you will go up, advancing like a storm. . . . (Ezekiel 38: 9)

56.3. *They have large armed forces.*

. . . your whole army—your horses, your horsemen fully armed, and a great horde with large and small shields, all of them brandishing their swords. (Ezekiel 38: 4)

. . . all of them riding on horses, a great horde, a mighty army. (Ezekiel 38: 15)

56.4. *They come from northern Asia (from far north of the Middle East).*

You will come from your place in the far north. . . . (Ezekiel 38: 15)

. . . I will bring you from the far north. . . . (Ezekiel 39:2)

56.5. *They cause corruption.*

... you will devise an evil scheme. (Ezekiel 38: 10)

You will say, . . . “I will attack a peaceful and unsuspecting people.” . . . (Ezekiel 38: 11)

Every man's sword will be against his brother. (Ezekiel 38: 21)

56.6. *They are an aggressive, plundering society.*

I will plunder and loot and turn my hand against the resettled ruins. . . . (Ezekiel 38: 12)

[People will ask,] “Have you come to plunder? Have you gathered your hordes to loot, to carry off silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods and to seize much plunder?” (Ezekiel 38: 13)

56.7. *They wage war in the mountains.*

I will summon a sword against Gog on all my mountains. . . .(Ezekiel 38: 21)

I will . . . send you against the mountains of Israel. (Ezekiel 39: 2)

. . . you will invade a land that has recovered from war, whose people were gathered . . . to the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate. (Ezekiel 38: 8)

56.8. *They perish from sickness and disasters.*

I will execute judgment upon him with plague and bloodshed. . . . (Ezekiel 38: 22)

I will pour down torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulfur on him and . . . on the many nations with him. (Ezekiel 38: 22)

Men will be regularly employed to cleanse the land. . . . (Ezekiel 39: 14)

56.9. *Mass deaths*

For seven months, the house of Israel will be burying them in order to cleanse the land. (Ezekiel 39: 12)

All the people of the land will bury them. . . . (Ezekiel 39: 13)

56.10. *A huge earthquake occurs at the time of their appearance.*

. . . at that time there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. (Ezekiel 38: 19)

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MAHDI IN JUDAIC SOURCES

The Mahdi whose coming is awaited in the Judaic tradition—will be a kind of political leader who will establish world peace. Besides being an effective leader, he will be a just and honest judge who always makes the most accurate decisions. He will have exemplary moral values, simply because of his fear and love of Allah. Since the Mahdi will fill the world with justice, neutralize all corrupt societies and be a guide for all nations to follow, Jews refer to him using the title “Yaheb” or “Shaheb” (the Rebuilder). In addition, Judaic tradition says that the Mahdi’s personality and beauty of soul will influence others, and that he will turn people in the direction of faith with very wise words. However, the servant whom Allah chooses and supports will very definitely not be any superhuman entity, but a normal individual born to ordinary parents.

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Some of the characteristics ascribed to the Mahdi according to Jewish references are:

1. *He will be Just.*

Righteousness will be his belt, and faithfulness the sash around his waist.
(Isaiah 11:5)

... a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom. ... (Psalm 45:6-7)

... In judging, [he] seeks justice. ... (Isaiah 16:5)

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... [The Mahdi] comes to you, righteous ... (Zechariah 9:9)

... he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. (Jeremiah 23:5)

... may he judge your people with righteousness. (Psalm 72:3)

2. *He will Protect the Rights of the Oppressed.*

May he judge the poor of the people, and save the children of the needy. ... (Psalm 72:4)

... he may judge [the] poor with justice! (Psalm 72:2)

With righteousness shall he judge the poor. ... (Isaiah 11:4)

... the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners ... to comfort all who mourn. ... (Isaiah 61:1-2)

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3. *He will Bring Justice to the Whole World.*

... He will bring justice to the nations. (Isaiah 42:1)

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In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged until he establishes justice on Earth. (Isaiah 42:3-4)

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Who has stirred up one from the east, calling him in righteousness to his service. . . . (Isaiah, 41:2)

4. *He will be Honest and Truthful.*

You love righteousness and hate wickedness. . . . (Psalm 45:7)

. . . With righteousness shall he judge the poor . . . (Isaiah 11:4)

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. . . he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. (Jeremiah 33:15)

. . . who in judging seeks justice. . . . (Isaiah 16:5)

. . . [the Mahdi] shall reign in righteousness. . . . (Isaiah, 32:1)

It will be ruled by the [Mahdi], a righteous and honest king. . . . (Maimonides, Mishnah Torah, Sanhedrin 10:1)

5. *He will be a Savior.*

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See, [the Mahdi] comes to you, righteous and having salvation. . . . (Zechariah, 9:9)

. . . As it is written, and the afflicted people you [the Mahdi] will save. (Talmud, Sanhedrin 98a)

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6. *His Message will Influence the World.*

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips, he will slay the wicked. (Isaiah 11:4)

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. . . In addition, he will be called Wonderful Counselor. (Isaiah 9:6)

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7. *His Words will Act on People's Hearts.*

Let your sharp arrows pierce the hearts of the king's enemies. (Psalm 45:5)

8. *He Will Turn the Whole World Toward Allah.*

He will [then] correct the entire world to serve God together, as is written: "For then I shall turn to the nations a pure tongue, that all shall call upon the name of God to serve Him as One." (Maimonides, Mishnah Torah, Laws of Kings 11:4)

9. *He will Spiritually Cleanse Mankind.*

But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify .

... and refine them like gold and silver. (Malachi 3:2-3)

10. *He will Succeed with the Power of Faith, Without Resorting to Force.*

“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the Lord Almighty.

(Zechariah 4:6)

11. *He will Possess Power and Dominion.*

Here I will make a horn [\[King \(Mahdi\)\]](#)... and set up a lamp for my anointed one. (Psalm 132:17)

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... [In](#) the mercy of the Most High; he shall not be moved. (Psalm 21:8)

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He will give strength unto His king [the Mahdi], and exalt the horn of His anointed [the Mahdi]. (1 Samuel 2:10)

... [The](#) government will be on his shoulders. (Isaiah, 9:6)

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12. *He will be a Political Leader.*

... [\[The Mahdi\]](#) will be a very great king. . . . (Maimonides, Mishnah Torah, Sanhedrin 10:1)

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And He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples. . . (Isaiah 2:4)

... all the peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. . . . (Daniel 7:14)

... [All](#) rulers will . . . obey him. (Daniel 7:27)

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13. *Nations will [follow](#) Him of Their Own Free Will.*

Nations shall walk at your light, and kings at the brightness of your rising. (Isaiah 60:3)

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[He] will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him. . . . (Isaiah 11:10)

All the nations will come to listen to him. . . . (Maimonides, Mishnah Torah, Repentance 9:2)

In his law, the islands will put their hope. (Isaiah 42:4)

14. *People will be Content with Him.*

May his [the Mahdi's] name endure for ever; may his name be continued as long as the sun; may men also bless themselves by him; may all nations call him happy. (Psalm 72:17)

... [All](#) lands will serve him [the Mahdi] because of his great righteousness, and wonders will be revealed through him. . . . (Maimonides, Mishnah Torah, Sanhedrin 10:1)

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His great righteousness . . . will cause all peoples to make peace with him and all the lands will serve him. (Maimonides, Mishnah Torah, Sanhedrin 10:1)

... [Let](#) the nations fall beneath your feet. (Psalm 45:5)

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15. *He will Possess Hegemony.*

... there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom. . . his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed. (Daniel 7:14)

... his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from Euphrates to the ends of the Earth. (Zechariah 9:10)

... [He](#) [the Mahdi] shall reign as a prosper king. . . (Jeremiah 23:5)

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Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. . . . (Isaiah 9:7)

I will clothe his enemies with shame, but the crown on his head will be resplendent. (Psalm 132:18)

He [God] gives His king [the Mahdi] great victories. . . (2 Samuel 22:51)

... [\[The Mahdi\]](#) is destined to arise and restore the kingdom of David to its glory of old, to its original glory of old, to its original sovereignty. (Maimonides, Mishnah Torah, Laws of Kings 11:4)

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16. *He will Rule the World from his Own Base.*

... [\[The Mahdi\]](#) reigned only over his couch.... (Talmud, Sanhedrin 20b)

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17. He will Rule the World Through his Community.

... [\[The Mahdi\]](#) reigned only over his staff. (Talmud, Sanhedrin 20b)

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18. *He will Establish World Peace.*

... [the Mahdi] shall speak peace unto the nations. (Zechariah 9:10)

... [All](#) lands will serve him because of his great righteousness, and wonders will be revealed through him. . . . (Maimonides, Mishnah Torah, Sanhedrin 10:1)

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[In the time of the Mahdi,] battles and wars will cease. . . “They will not lift a sword, nation against nation.” (Maimonides, Mishnah Torah, Sanhedrin 10:1)

19. *He will be Chaste.*

... [And](#) the glory of the Lord rises upon [you](#). . . and his glory appears over you. (Isaiah 60:1-

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Through the victories you gave, his glory is great. . . . (Psalm 21:1-7)

20. *He will Trust in Allah and Rely on Him.*

. . . For the [Mahdi] . . . trusts in the Lord. (Psalm 21:1-7)

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The Lord is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one. (Psalm 28:8)

21. *Allah will Support Him in Every Way.*

And the spirit of Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of Lord. (Isaiah 11:2)

"Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him... (Isaiah 42:1)

The spirit of the God is upon me. . . . (Isaiah 61:1)

22. *He will be Intelligent.*

. . . [He] will reign wisely. . . (Jeremiah 23:5)

[The Mahdi] will be even wiser than Solomon. . . . (Maimonides, Mishnah Torah, Repentance 9:2)

It will be ruled by the [Mahdi], . . . outstanding in wisdom. . . . (Maimonides, Mishnah Torah, Sanhedrin 10:1)

There will be . . . an era [of the Mahdi] dominated by goodness. . . wisdom. . (Maimonides, Sanhedrin 10:1)

23. *He will be a Servant Beloved of Allah.*

. . . He shows unfailing kindness to his anointed [the Mahdi] . . . forever. . (2 Samuel 22:51)

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24. *He will be Filled with the Fear of Allah.*

. . . The spirit of the fear of Lord shall rest upon him . . . his delight shall be in the fear of Lord. . . . (Isaiah 11:2-3)

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Who, then, is the man that fears the Lord? (Psalm 25:12)

25. *He Remains Close to Allah.*

The [Mahdi] . . . will rule the Messianic age, a righteous and honest king, outstanding in wisdom, close to God. (Maimonides, Mishnah Torah, Sanhedrin 10:1)

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26. *He is Good-looking.*

Your eyes will see the [Mahdi] in his beauty. . . (Isaiah 33:17)

You are the most excellent of men. . . . (Psalm 45:2)

27. *Allah's Glory will be Upon Him.*

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

(Isaiah 60:1)

28. *His Speech is Wise.*

. . . And your lips have been anointed with grace. . . . (Psalm 45:2)

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29. *He will Teach and Call People to Allah's Path.*

. . . And he will therefore [be able to] teach the people the ways of God. (Maimonides, Mishnah Torah, Repentance 9:2)

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He shall teach. . . people and instruct them in the way of God. He will. . . repair the breaches. . . (Maimonides, Mishnah Torah, Laws of Kings 11:4)

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. . . He [the Mahdi] will then perfect the entire world, to serve God together. . . (Maimonides, Mishnah Torah, Laws of Kings 11:4)

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30. *He will reflect deeply on Allah's Law.*

However, his delight is in the law of God . . . he meditates day and night. (Psalm 1:2)

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31. *He will have Majesty and Splendour.*

. . . you have bestowed on him splendor and majesty. (Psalm 21:1-7)

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32. *His Dwelling will be Magnificent.*

. . . his resting-place shall be glorious. (Isaiah 11:10)

33. *He will have Humility.*

. . . He is triumphant, and victorious, lowly. . . (Zechariah 9:9)

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34. *He will Act in Accord with Allah's Approval.*

And I will raise Me up a faithful priest that shall do according to that which is in My heart and in My mind. . . . (1 Samuel 2:35)

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He [the Mahdi] will . . . fight the battles of God.

(Maimonides, Mishnah Torah, Laws of Kings 11:4)

He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. (Psalm 37:6)

35. *He will Rule not superficially, but with the Wisdom of Divinity.*

... He shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither decides after the hearing of his ears. .
.. (Isaiah 11:3)

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As you were lying there, your mind turned to things to come, and the revealers of mysteries
showed you what is going to happen. (Daniel 2:29)

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36. *He will Possess Love and Compassion.*

For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help. (Psalm
72:12)

He will have pity on the poor and needy, and the souls of the needy he will save. (Psalm
72:13)

He will redeem their soul from oppression and violence, and precious will their blood be in
his sight. (Psalm 72:14)

A bruised reed shall he not break, and the dimly burning wick shall he not quench. . . . (Isaiah
42:3)

37. *He will be Good-Natured.*

He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. (Isaiah 42:2)

He had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. . . . (Isaiah 53:9)

38. *He will be Courageous.*

Gird your sword upon your side, O mighty one; clothe yourself with splendor and majesty.
(Psalm 45:3)

... He will not falter or be discouraged until he establishes justice on Earth. . . (Isaiah 42:4)

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39. *He will be Given Abundance.*

... The wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come . .
. bearing gold and incense. . . . (Isaiah 60:5-6)

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He [the Mahdi] grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. . . .
(Isaiah, 53:2)

40. *He will impart Glad Tidings.*

How beautiful ... are the feet of those, who proclaim peace, which bring good tidings, who
proclaim salvation. . . . (Isaiah 52:7)

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41. *He will Epitomize Allah's title of the Salam (Peace).*
... And he will be called ... Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

Of the increase of ... peace, there will be no end. ... (Isaiah 9:7)

42. *He will Have Human Form, and Be a Genuine Human Being.*

In my vision at night, I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. ... (Daniel 7:13)

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R. Nahman said: if he [the Mahdi] is of those living [today], it might be one like myself, as it is written. And their nobles shall be of themselves, and their governors shall proceed from the midst of them. (Torah, Sanhedrin 98b)

43. *He will Rule the World without Working Miracles.*

Do not consider it possible that the [Mahdi] must make signs and wonders and make new things in the world or revive the dead and the like, as the matter is not so. ... (Maimonides, Mishnah Torah, Laws of Kings 11:3)

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Let no one consider that in the days of the [Mahdi] anything of the customary way of the world will be defunct, or that there will be anything new in Creation, rather the world will remain as it is. (Maimonides, Mishnah Torah, Laws of Kings 12:1)

Do not think that the ways of the world or the laws of nature will change [in the time of Mahdi], this is not true. The world will continue as it is. (Maimonides, Mishnah Torah, Sanhedrin 10:1)

44. *He will be known Throughout the World.*

He [the Mahdi] will achieve great fame, and his reputation among the nations will be even greater than that of King Solomon. ... (Maimonides, Mishnah Torah, Sanhedrin 10:1)

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45. *He will Appear in the End Times.*

... And in the last jubilee* the [Mahdi] will come. (Talmud, Sanhedrin 97b)

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(*Jubilee: a period that the Jews regard as holy and occurs once every 50 years.)

46. *He will Appear Unexpectedly.*

[In calculating the time of the Mahdi's coming], ... Three come unawares. ... Messiah [the Mahdi], a found article and a scorpion. (Talmud, Sanhedrin 97a)

47. *He will be Allah's Blessing Upon Mankind.*

What is his [the Mahdi's] name? ... His name is Shiloh. ... His name is Yinnon (His name shall endure forever). ... His name is Haninah (blessed by God). ... His name is Menahem ("the

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comforter"). . . Because Menahem ["the comforter", that would relieve my soul. . . Surely, he has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows . . . (Talmud, Sanhedrin 98b)

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48. *His Value was Unknown at First.*

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and We esteemed him not. (Isaiah 53:3)

49. *He will be Patient and Submissive to Allah.*

He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. (Isaiah 53:7)

50. *His Community's Main Task will be to Serve Allah.*

And you will be called priests of the Lord, you will be named ministers of our God. (Isaiah 61:6)

51. *His Community will Grow in Faith.*

. . . you will be called priests of the Lord. . . (Isaiah 61:6)

THE PERIOD OF THE MAHDI'S RULE IN JUDAIC SOURCES

According to Judaic belief, in the period following the coming of the Mahdi, all hatred, intolerance and war in the world will end. Peace and justice will be established, and an administration based on love will be set up.

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During the time of the Mahdi, there will also be great scientific advances. Cities will be beautified, and people will enjoy high standards of living. The land will be fertile and water plentiful, and there will be such wealth and plenty that no one will lack for anything. But people will also make great efforts, attaching greater importance to the spiritual than the material in order that they may draw closer to Allah. When religious moral values rule, disputes will come to an end. Populations will live in peace and security and the world will be filled with the knowledge of Allah.

The *Olam Ha-b* (“the World to Come”)—an expression that Jews use to describe the time of the reign of the Mahdi—exhibits a very close agreement with the hadith of Prophet Muhammad (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) that described “the Golden Age.” Here are some of these references to be found in Judaic scriptures:

1. *The End of Troubles*

The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces. . . . (Isaiah 25:8)

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. . . . (Isaiah 35:5-6)

In his days . . . prosperity will abound till the moon is no more. (Psalm 72:7)

[They]. . . will enjoy great peace. (Psalm 37:11)

. . . You have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, and the rod of their oppressor. . . . (Isaiah 9:4)

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[The] Lord will give you the desires of your heart. (Psalm 37:4)

They will not toil in vain. . . . (Isaiah 65:23)

2. *Abundant Water Resources*

I will make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys. I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs. (Isaiah 41:18-19)

Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. . . . (Isaiah, 35:6-7)

... [All](#) the ravines will run with water. . . . (Joel 3:18)

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3. *Abundance And Plenty*

... [And](#) the desert becomes a fertile field, and the fertile field seems like a forest. (Isaiah 32:15)

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I will call for the grain and make it plentiful. . . I will increase the fruit of the trees and the crops of the field. (Ezekiel 36:29-30)

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. . . In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds will grow. (Isaiah 35:1-2, 35:7)

For the good will be plentiful, and all delicacies available as dust.
(Maimonides, Mishnah Torah, Laws of Kings, 12:5)

In his days, the righteous will flourish; prosperity will abound [until](#) the moon is no more.
(Psalm 72: 6-7)

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... he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the Lord. . . . (Isaiah 51:3)

... [The](#) hills will flow with milk. . . . (Joel 3:18)

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The shoot I have planted, the work of my hands, for the display of my splendor will possess the land forever. (Isaiah 60:21)

... [They](#) will inherit a double portion. . . . (Isaiah 61:7)

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“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman and the planter by the one treading grapes. . . .” (Amos 9:13)

4. *An End to Hunger and Want*

I . . . will not bring famine upon you. . . . (Ezekiel 36:29-30)

The Jews are destined to eat [their fill] in the days of the [Mahdi]. . . (Talmud, Sanhedrin, 98b)

They will eat and lie down. . . . (Zephaniah 3:13)

They will feed beside the roads and find pasture on every barren hill. They will neither hunger nor thirst. . . . (Isaiah 49:9-10)

5. *An Abundance of Fruits*

In the generation in which [the Mahdi] will come . . . all the wild trees . . . will bear fruit. . . .
(Talmud, Kethuboth, 112b)

They will plant vineyards. . . they will make gardens and eat their fruit. (Amos 9:14)

. . . The desert becomes a fertile field. (Isaiah 32:15)

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6. *The Eradication of Atheist Ideologies*

. . . those who oppose the Lord will be shattered. . . . (1 Samuel 2:10)

The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and his name the only name. (Zechariah 14:9)

7. *Faith in Allah will Rule the Earth*

. . . for the Earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. . . .
(Isaiah 11:9)

In addition, at that time . . . the Earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God
(Maimonides, Mishnah Torah, Laws of Kings, 12:5)

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. . . in those days [*of the Mahdi*], knowledge, wisdom and truth will be increased in the world, as it is written, “. . . for the Earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord” . . . (Maimonides, Mishnah Torah, Repentance, 9:2)

8. *People will Begin to Properly Appreciate the Greatness of Allah*

In that [*the Mahdi's*] era, [they] will attain an understanding of their Creator to the [full] extent of human potential. . . . (Maimonides, Mishneh Torah, Laws of Kings, 12:5)

. . . They will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God. (Isaiah 35:2)

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And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. . . . (Isaiah 40:5)

9. *People will Turn to Allah in Awe*

They will come trembling to the Lord and to his blessings in the last days. (Hosea 3:5)

All the ends of the Earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, for dominion belongs to the Lord. . . . (Psalm 22:27-28)

10. *Allah will be Revered as the One and Only God*

. . . the Lord alone will be exalted in that day. (Isaiah, 2:17)

11. *Compliance with Allah's commandments and prohibitions*

They will follow my laws and be careful to keep my decrees. (Ezekiel 37:24)

Then will I purify the lips of the peoples, that all of them may call on the name of the Lord and serve him shoulder to shoulder. (Zephaniah 3:9)

12. *They will Live with the Purity of Faith, Cleansed from Sin*

I will save them from all their sinful backsliding and I will cleanse them. . . (Ezekiel 37:23-24)

I will cleanse them from all the sin they have committed against Me. . . . (Jeremiah 33:8)

Then will all your people be righteous. . . . (Isaiah 60:21)

And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; the simple will not stray from it. (Isaiah 35:8)

The righteous will inherit the land and dwell in it forever. (Psalm 37:29)

Instead of their shame, my people will receive a double portion. . . . (Isaiah 61:7)

13. *An End to Lies and Fraud*

. . . [At the time of Mahdi, people] will do no wrong; they will speak no lies, nor will deceit be found in their mouths. . . . (Zephaniah 3:13)

I will remove both the fake prophets and the spirit of impurity from the land. (Zechariah 13:2)

In his days, the righteous will flourish. . . . (Psalm 72:7)

14. *Justice will Rule the World*

Justice will dwell in the desert and righteousness live in the fertile field. (Isaiah 32:16)

15. *Rulers will Be Just*

. . . rulers will rule with justice. Each man will be like a shelter from the wind and a refuge from the storm, like streams of water in the desert and the shadow of a great rock in a thirsty land. (Isaiah 32:1-2)

16. *An End to Wars*

Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. (Isaiah 2:4)

I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the war-horses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. . . . (Zechariah 9:10)

And at that time, there will be no hunger or war, no jealousy or rivalry. . . .
(Maimonides, Mishnah Torah, Laws of Kings, 12:5)

17. *An End to the Arms Race*

. . . burn them [the weapons] up—the small and large shields, the bows and arrows, the war clubs and spears. . . they will use them for fuel. . . . (Ezekiel 39: 9)

They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. (Isaiah 2:4)

18. *An End to Violence and Terror*

They will neither harm nor destroy. . . . (Isaiah 11:9)

The meek will inherit the land. . . . (Psalm 37:11)

The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, but dust will be the serpent's food. . . . (Isaiah 65:25)

19. *A Climate of Peace and Security*

Every man will sit under his own vine and under his own fig tree, and no one will make him or her afraid. . . . (Micah 4:4)

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The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever. My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest. (Isaiah 32:16-18)

The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf, the lion, and the yearling together and a little child will lead them. . . . The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy. . . . (Isaiah 11:6-9)

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. . . no one will make them afraid. (Zephaniah 3:13)

I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side (1 Chronicles 22:9)

They will not . . . bear children for calamity. . . . (Isaiah 65:23)

20. *People will Live in Happiness and Joy*

Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away. (Isaiah 51:11)

Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing. (Isaiah 51:3)

. . . They rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. (Isaiah 9:3)

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... [Everlasting](#) joy will be theirs. (Isaiah 61:7)

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21. *They will Enjoy Peace and Security*

It will be inhabited . . . and secure. (Zechariah 14:11)

I will heal My people and will let them enjoy abundant peace and security. (Jeremiah 33:6)

22. *There will be no Difficulties in Making Ends Meet*

... [In](#) the [Mahdi's] age... it will be very easy for people to make a living... (Maimonides, Mishnah Torah, Sanhedrin 10:1)

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With his love, he will rejoice over you . . . restore your fortunes before your very eyes. . . . (Zephaniah 3:17, 20)

23. *Danger and Worry will Vanish*

No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious beast get up on it; they will not be found there. (Isaiah 35:9)

... [No](#) one will make him afraid. (Jeremiah 30:10)

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24. *Ravaged Cities will be Rebuilt*

... they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. . . . (Amos 9:14)

They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations. (Isaiah 61:4)

I will heal My people and will let them enjoy abundant peace and security. I ... will rebuild them as they were before. (Jeremiah 33:6-7)

25. *The Discovery of a Solution to Global Warming*

... [Nor](#) will the desert heat or the sun beat upon them. . . . (Isaiah 49:9-11)

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26. *More Roads and Bridges*

I will turn all my mountains into roads, and my highways will be raised up. (Isaiah 49:9-11)

27. *The Humble will Replace the Proud*

I will remove . . . those who rejoice in their pride. Never again will you be haughty. (Zephaniah 3:11)

I will leave within you the meek and humble, who trust in the name of the Lord. (Zephaniah 3:12)

. . . the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be brought low. . . . (Isaiah 2:17)

28. *Faith will Soften the Hearts of Humanity*

. . . in those days [of the Mahdi] “ . . and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh” (Maimonides, Mishnah Torah, Repentance 9:2)

29. *An Increase in Reason and Wisdom*

The mind of the rash will know and understand, and the stammering tongue will be fluent and clear. (Isaiah 32:4)

| ... in the [Mahdi's] age, it will be a time when the number of wise men will increase....
(Maimonides, Mishnah Torah, Sanhedrin, 10:1)

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| ... in the [Mahdi's] age... with very little effort they will be able to accomplish very much....
(Maimonides, Mishnah Torah, Sanhedrin, 10:1)

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30. *The Learning of Secret Knowledge*

| And at that time, they will perceive the esoteric truths and comprehend their Creator's wisdom, as is the capacity of man. As it is written: “For the earth shall be filled with knowledge of God, as the waters cover the sea. . . .”

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(Maimonides, Mishnah Torah, Laws of Kings 12:5)

31. *False Judgments will be Corrected*

No longer will the fool be called noble, nor the scoundrel be highly respected.
(Isaiah 32:5)

32. *Faith without Associating any Partners to Allah*

“On that day, I will banish the names of the idols from the land, and they will be remembered no more,” declares the Lord Almighty. . . . (Zechariah 13:2)

They will no longer defile themselves with their idols and vile images or with any of their offenses. . . . (Ezekiel 37:23)

33. *The Restoration of the Old Testament to its Original Text*

| . . . In his [the Mahdi's] days all the laws of the Torah shall be reinstituted as they had been a
foretimes. (Maimonides, Mishnah Torah, Laws of Kings 11:1)

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SIGNS OF THE MAHDI IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

The New Testament contains a great many passages regarding the End Times and the second coming of Prophet Jesus (pbuh). Although some parts of the New Testament have become corrupted, those sections that are compatible with the verses of the Qur'an and the hadith of our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) describe social phenomena and natural events that will take place before and after the return of Prophet Jesus' (pbuh).

As our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) has revealed, Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will conduct a great struggle against the Anti-~~Christ~~, the manifestation of atheism on Earth, will finally overcome the Anti-~~Christ~~ and thus, usher in a holy age in which religious moral values reign supreme.

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According to the hadiths of our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace), the Mahdi will meet up with Prophet Jesus (pbuh), and they will perform the daily prayer together. One account relates that the Mahdi will recognize Prophet Jesus (pbuh) and offer him public recognition. The Mahdi and Prophet Jesus (pbuh) will reign together for a while on Earth and collaborate in order to eradicate the system of the Anti-~~Christ~~. (Allah knows best.)

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Just as the portents of Doomsday and those concerning the appearance of the Mahdi agree, so do the portents regarding the second coming of Prophet Jesus (pbuh) also agree that he and the Mahdi will join forces in the same period—the End Times. The descriptions of this period include indications of the coming of the Mahdi and the second coming of Prophet Jesus (pbuh). Even if we cannot be absolutely certain of the accuracy of relevant accounts in the New Testament, still it is noteworthy that some descriptions exhibit the closest agreement with the Qur'an and the hadiths of the Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace).

In the light of these similarities, practically all the descriptions foretold in the New Testament are coming about in the present day, one after the other. ~~Based on~~ Islamic texts first, ~~and~~ of the Old and New Testaments, this makes it possible to say that we are living in the age in which the Mahdi is expected to appear.

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THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE APPEARANCE OF THE MAHDI IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

In referring to the End Times, the New Testament sometimes uses very clear terminology as to when the Mahdi will appear, and sometimes more figurative language. Looking at the relevant terms that the New Testament employs, it appears that this period preceding the coming of the Mahdi will be one of social and moral degeneration, major wars, terrifying catastrophes, extraordinary phenomena in the skies, a turning away from religious moral values, the spread of injustice and unfairness, the oppression of true believers, and peace and security being replaced by chaos and unease.

Some of these signs in the New Testament include:

1. *The spread of irreligion*

At that time, many will turn away from the faith. . . . (Matthew 24:10)

. . . In later times, some will abandon the faith. . . . (1 Timothy 4:1)

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. . . [That day will not come] until the rebellion occurs. . . .
(2 Thessalonians 2:3)

In the last times, there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires. (Jude 1:18)

. . . These men oppose the truth—men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected. (2 Timothy 3:8)

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2. *The denial of creation*

But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word, the heavens existed and the Earth was formed out of water and by water. (2 Peter 3:5)

3. *The spread of polytheism (ascribing equals to Allah)*

The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk. (Revelation 9:20)

. . . In later times, some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. (1 Timothy 4:1)

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4. *A failure to abide by Allah's commandments and prohibitions*

. . . These dreamers... reject authority [of the Lord]. . . . (Jude 1:8)

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. . . They never stop sinning. . . . (2 Peter 2:14)

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5. *Loss of respect for religious values*

These dreamers . . . slander celestial beings. (Jude 1:8)

6. *The emergence of people who use religion for their own ends*

For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. (2 Timothy 4:3)

... [Many](#) false prophets will appear and deceive many people.
(Matthew 24:11)

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7. *The faith is distorted and distanced from its true essence.*

For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. . . . They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.
(2 Timothy 4:3-4)

They . . . order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth.
(1 Timothy 4:3)

8. *Increasing corruption*

... [Just](#), as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies. . . . (2 Peter 2:1)

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Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. (2 Peter 2:2)

Because of the increase of wickedness. . . . (Matthew 24:12)

... [They](#) seduce the unstable. . . . (2 Peter 2:14)

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9. *The spread of superstition*

Nor did they repent of . . . their magic arts. (Revelation 9:21)

... [In](#) later times . . . some will . . . follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. (1 Timothy 4:1)

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For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine.
(2 Timothy 4:3)

10. *An increase of hypocrisy*

. . . people will be . . . having a form of godliness, but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them. (2 Timothy 3:5)

11. *The oppression of true believers*

. . . you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. . . You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. **All men will hate you because of Me.** . . By standing firm, you will gain life. (Luke 21:12,16, 17, 19)

All these are the beginning of birth pains. Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of Me. (Matthew 24:8-9)

You will be handed over to the local councils. . . Because of Me, you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. . . All men will hate you because of Me. . . (Mark 13: 9, 13)

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12. *Groups that orchestrate evil are in unity.*

Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather. (Matthew 24:28)

13. *Increasing earthquakes*

. . . see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. There will be . . . earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains. (Matthew 24:6-8)

There will be great earthquakes. . . (Luke 21:11)

. . . the time will come when not one stone will be left on another. (Luke 21:6)

Then there came . . . a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake. The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. (Revelation 16:18-19)

There will be earthquakes in various places. . . (Mark 13:8)

14. *Famine*

. . . see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. . . There will be famines . . . in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains. (Matthew 24:6-8)

There will be. . . famines . . . in various places. (Luke 21:11)

They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by . . . famine. . . .
(Revelation 6:7)

There will be . . . famines. (Mark 13:8)

15. *Hurricanes and tsunami*

On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea.
(Luke 21:25)

16. *Volcanic eruptions*

When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace.
The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss. (Revelation 9:2)

The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the Earth
and everything in it will be laid bare. (2 Peter 3:10)

17. *An increase in storms and lightning*

. . . [There](#) came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.
(Revelation 8:5)

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And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, [and peals](#) of thunder, an earthquake and a
great hailstorm. (Revelation 11:19)

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18. *Falling of hailstones*

From the sky, huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men. . . . the
[hail] plague was so terrible. (Revelation 16:21)

19. *Reshaping of the structures of the Earth by natural disasters*

Every island fled away, and the mountains could not be found. (Revelation 16:20)

. . . every mountain and island was removed from its place. (Revelation 6:14)

20. *Landslides*

They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us. . . ." (Revelation 6:16)

21. *Extraordinary events in the skies*

The heavens will disappear with a roar. . . . (2 Peter 3:10)

There will be. . . great signs from heaven. (Luke 21:11)

The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up. . . (Revelation 6:14)

22. *Meteorite storms*

. . . and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. (Revelation 6:13)

23. *A meteor falls to the ground.*

I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. . . (Revelation 9:1)

24. *Signs in the Sun and Moon*

There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. . . (Luke 21:25)

Immediately after the distress of those days, the sun will be darkened,
And the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken. (Matthew 24:29)

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But in those days, following that distress, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken. (Mark 13:24-25)

The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red. . . (Revelation 6:12)

. . . A third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and a third of the night. (Revelation 8:12)

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25. *Global warming*

. . . and the sun was given power to scorch people with fire. They were seared by the intense heat. . . (Revelation 16: 8-9)

26. *Increasing fires*

A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up. (Revelation 8:7)

27. *Epidemics*

There will be . . . pestilences. (Luke 21:11)

They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by . . . plague. . . . (Revelation 6:8)

28. *Plagues of locusts*

And out of the smoke, locusts came down upon the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. (Revelation 9:3-4)

29. *Wars and maritime accidents destroy marine life.*

. . . something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood, a third of the living creatures in the sea died. . . . (Revelation 8:8-9)

. . . [The sea] turned into blood like that of a dead man, and every living thing in the sea died. (Revelation 16:3)

30. *Terrifying catastrophes*

Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world. . . . (Luke 21:26)

Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. . . . For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand? (Revelation 6:15-17)

31. *A lowering of the water of the Euphrates (with the Keban Dam)*

The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East. (Revelation 16:12)

32. *Major wars*

When you hear of wars and [rumours](#) of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. . . . These are the beginning of birth pains. (Mark 13:7-8)

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You will hear of wars and [rumours](#) of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. . . . (Matthew 24:6-7)

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When you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away. Then he said to them: "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom." (Luke 21:9-10)

33. *The disappearance of peace*

[It] was given power to take peace from the earth and to make men slay each other. . . . (Revelation 6:4)

34. *Increased rebellion*

When you hear of . . . revolutions, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away. (Luke 21:9)

35. *Increased corruption and separatism*

In the last times, these people cause divisions. . . . (Jude 1:18-19)

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Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. (Luke 12:51)

From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. (Luke 12:52)

36. *A rise in hatred and enmity*

Brother will betray brother to death and a father his child. Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. (Mark 13:12)

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. . . men [will] slay each other. (Revelation 6:4)

37. *Destruction of places of worship*

Some of his disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said, "As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another. . ." (Luke 21:5-6)

38. *Increasing deaths*

Hell was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth. (Revelation 6:8)

The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. (Revelation 16:4)

39. *Bloodshed in the Middle East*

“Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind. (Revelation 9:14-15)

40. *Armies surround Jerusalem and the area around it.*

When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies. . . . (Luke 21:20)

41. *The use of technological arms and vehicles in wars*

Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur. A third ~~of~~ humankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths. The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury. (Revelation 9: 17-19)

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42. *An increase in murders*

Nor did they repent of their murders. (Revelation 9:21)

43. *The spread of prostitution*

Nor did they repent of . . . their sexual immorality. ((Revelation 9:21)

. . . These dreamers pollute their own bodies. . . . (Jude 1:8)

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With eyes full of adultery. . . . (2 Peter 2:14)

44. *Increasing cohabitation out of wedlock*

. . . In later times, some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. . . . They forbid people to marry. (1 Timothy 4:1, 3)

Deleted: in

45. *Increasing theft*

Nor did they repent of . . . their thefts. (Revelation 9:21)

46. *Increasing fraud*

. . . They are . . . carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you. (2 Peter 2:13)

. evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, misleading and being misled. (2 Timothy 3:13)

47. *The hardening of consciences*

Speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared. . . . (1 Timothy 4:2)

We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you have become dull of hearing. (Hebrews 5:11)

48. *Immoral and purposeless living*

Their shame is like the foam on the wild waves of the sea. They are wandering stars. . . . (Jude 1:13)

49. *People turn away from spiritual matters.*

These are the . . . natural men, not having the Spirit. (Jude 1:19)

50. *A decline in love between people*

Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. (Matthew 24:12)

People will be . . . unholy, without love. . . . (2 Timothy 3:2-3)

51. *A rise in anger and a decline in forgiveness*

. . . many will . . . betray and hate each other. . . . (Matthew 24:10)

People will be. . . unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good. . . . (2 Timothy 3:2-3)

52. *A decline in respect*

People will be . . . abusive. . . . (2 Timothy 3:2)

53. *Disrespect among children*

Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. (Mark 13:12)

People will be . . . disobedient to their parents. . . . (Mark 13:12)

54. *Family relations impaired*

They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law. (Luke 12:53)

55. *People consider only material values.*

People will be . . . lovers of money. . . . (2 Timothy 3:2)

56. *The rich attain even greater wealth.*

Now listen, you rich people, you have hoarded wealth in the last days. (James 5:1, 3)

Deleted: people, . . .

Deleted: You

Deleted: ,3

57. *The rich grow richer and the poor, poorer.*

For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. (Matthew 25:29)

. . . to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what he has will be taken away. (Luke 19:26)

58. *A spread in the use of interest and unfair earnings*

His master replied, . . . “You wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow? Why then didn't you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?” (Luke 19:22-23)

59. *Drunkenness and dissipation*

Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. (Luke 21:34)

Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes. . . . (2 Peter 2:13)

These men are blemishes,. . . eating . . . without the slightest qualm. (Jude 1:12)

60. *People seek earthly pleasures rather than Allah's approval.*

[People will be] lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. . . .
(2 Timothy 3:4)

61. *They live solely according to their own desires.*

In the last times, there will be [those] . . . who will follow their own ungodly desires. (Jude 1:18)

... They follow their own evil desires. (Jude 1:16)

Deleted: they

They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct. . . . (2 Peter 3:12)

... In the last days, those will come, following their own evil desires. (2 Peter 3:3)

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62. *Lack of faith leads to irrationality.*

Yet these men speak abusively against whatever they do not understand; and what things they do understand by instinct, like unreasoning animals—these are the very things that destroy them. (Jude 1:10)

But these men blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed. . . . (2 Peter 2:12)

63. *Their actions bear no fruit.*

They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted—twice dead. (Jude, 1:12)

64. *Increased selfishness*

People will be lovers of themselves, brutal, treacherous. . . . (2 Timothy 3:2-5)

Deleted: themselves, . . .

[These men are] shepherds who feed only themselves. (Jude, 1:12)

65. *Self-interest*

[They] flatter others for their own advantage. (Jude, 1:16)

66. *Greed*

... They are experts in greed—an accursed brood! (2 Peter, 2:14)

Deleted: they

In their greed, these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. (2 Peter, 2:3)

67. *Dissatisfaction*

These men are grumblers and faultfinders. . . . (Jude, 1:16)

68. *Impatience*

People will be . . . rash (2 Timothy 3:2-5)

69. *Evil words*

These men are grumblers. . . . (Jude 1:16)

70. *Increased arrogance*

People will be lovers of themselves. . . boastful, proud. . . . (2 Timothy 3:2-5)

71. *Increased mockery*

In the last times, there will be scoffers. . . . (Jude 1:18)

. . . in the last days, scoffers will come. . . . (2 Peter 3:3)

72. *Unhappiness*

. . . all the nations of the earth will mourn. . . . (Matthew 24:30)

73. *Events causing terrible distress and suffering*

How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people. (Luke 21:23)

There will be . . . fearful events. (Luke 21:11)

. . . those will be days of distress unequalled from the beginning, when God created the world, until now—and never to be equaled again. (Mark 13:19)

For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again. (Matthew 24:21)

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. (2 Timothy 3:1)

Men gnawed their tongues in agony. (Revelation 16:10)

74. People refuse to submit to Allah and rebel because of what befalls them.

... And cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done. (Revelation 16:11) (Allah is beyond that)

Deleted: and

75. People lose hope in salvation.

During those days, men will seek death, but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them. (Revelation 9:6)

76. The days grow short.

If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect, those days will be shortened. (Matthew 24:22)

If the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would survive. But for the sake of the elect, whom He has chosen, He has shortened them. (Mark 13:20)

77. War in Iraq

77.1. The bombing of Iraq

Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, and said: "With such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be found again." (Revelation 18:21)

77.2. The destruction of Iraqi cities

... Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! ... (Revelation 14:8, 18:2)

77.3. Severe destruction in a very short period in Iraq

Deleted: period of time

In one hour, such great wealth has been brought to ruin! (Revelation 18:17)

In one hour, [the city] has been brought to ruin. (Revelation 18:19)

77.4. The impoverishment of Iraq

The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her [Babylon] because no one buys their cargoes any more. (Revelation 18:11)

The merchants who sold these things and gained their wealth from her will stand far off, terrified at her torment. (Revelation 18:15)

They will say, “The fruit you longed for is gone from you. All your riches and splendor have vanished”. . . (Revelation 18:14)

77.5. A halt to art and creativity

No workman of any trade will ever be found in you again. The sound of a millstone will never be heard in you again. (Revelation 18:22)

Deleted: a millstone

77.6. The Iraqi people in a state of trouble and despair

The music of harpists and musicians, flute players and trumpeters, will never be heard in you again. . . . (Revelation 18:22)

The light of a lamp will never shine in you again. The voice of bridegroom and bride will never be heard in you again. Your merchants were the world’s great men. (Revelation 18:23)

78. The emergence of the Beast (Dabbat al-Ardh)

Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. (Revelation 13:11-12)

79. The coming of Prophet Elijah (pbuh)

“To be sure, Elijah does come first, and restores all things. . . .” (Mark 9:12)

80. The appearance of the Anti-Christ (Dajjal)

Deleted: christ

80.1. The Anti-Christ works intensively to spread atheism

Deleted: christ

[That day will not come] until . . . the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction . . . exalt[s] himself over everything that is called God or is worshipped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God. (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4) (Allah is beyond that)

He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. (Revelation 13:7)

He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander His name and His dwelling place and those who live in heaven. (Revelation 13:6) (Allah is beyond that.)

80.2 80.2. People who have turned away from religion are deceived by illusions.

Lawless one . . . displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. (2 Thessalonians 2:9-10)

Because of the signs, he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the Earth. (Revelation 13:14)

80.3 The Anti-Christ influences all nations.

Deleted: christ

. . . He [the Anti-christ] was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. (Revelation 13:7)

Deleted: he

80.4 . He draws support from countries' political and military forces.

Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. (Revelation 19:19)

Deleted: gathered together

80.5 He draws full support from the leaders of irreligious ideologies.

Kings along with the beast, have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast. (Revelation 17:13)

80.6 He continues his irreligious activities until the emergence of the Mahdi.

For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. (2 Thessalonians 2:7)

80.7 He intensifies his activities as the coming of the Mahdi approaches.

The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth and his angels with him . . . because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short. (Revelation 12:9, 12)

Deleted: satan

Deleted: the earth, and his

Deleted: ,12

80.8 He attracts all those who are weak in faith.

The whole world was astonished and followed the beast. (Revelation 13:3)

They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason, God sends them a powerful delusion. (2 Thessalonians 2:10-11)

80.9 *He acts under Satan's command.*

Deleted: *satan's*

The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan . . . in every sort of evil. (2 Thessalonians 2:9-10)

Deleted: of

Deleted: *satan*

80.10 *He produces corruption.*

And then the lawless one will be revealed. (2 Thessalonians 2:8)

80.11 *He causes wars.*

He performed great . . . signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. (Revelation, 13:13)

Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty. Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon. (Revelation 16:13-16)

80.12 *He is finally overcome.*

[That day will not come] until . . . the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. (2 Thessalonians 2:3)

81. *The emergence of Gog and Magog*

81.1. *They constitute a multinational community.*

... Satan . . . will go out from prison to deceive the nations in the four corners of the Earth—Gog and Magog—to gather them for battle. In number, they are like the sand on the seashore. (Revelation 20:7-8)

Deleted: *satan*

Deleted: *number*

81.2. *They are very great in numbers.*

In number, they are like the sand on the seashore. (Revelation 20:8)

81.3. *They produce corruption.*

They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city He loves. (Revelation 20:9)

81.4. They act according to Satan's suggestion.

Deleted: satan's

. . . The devil, who deceived them. . . . (Revelation 20:10)

Deleted: the

81.5. *They are destroyed en masse.*

But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. (Revelation 20:9)

82. *The return to Earth of Prophet Jesus (pbuh)*

After he [Jesus] said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:9-11)

. . . he will appear a second time . . . to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him. (Hebrews 9:28)

. . . while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of . . . Jesus. . . . (Titus 2:13)

This will happen when . . . Jesus is revealed from heaven. (2 Thessalonians 1:7)

He [Jesus] was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. (1 Peter 1:20)

THE PERIOD OF THE MAHDI'S RULE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

The supremacy of religious moral values—Allah's promise in the Qur'an—also appears in the New Testament as well as the Old Testament. This promise, set out in the scriptures of all the Abrahamic faiths, refers to a community descended from the line of Prophet Abraham (pbuh), with an unconditional faith in Allah, living solely for His approval and striving to spread the moral values of the faith across the world. The Mahdi, who is due to appear in the End Times, and his community are the believers who, by Allah's leave, will be the means whereby this promise comes about.

This promise of Allah's appears as follows in the New Testament:

... You are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, **“Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.”** (Acts 3:25)

Deleted: you

It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received **the promise that he would be heir of the world**, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. (Romans 4:13)

The following are some passages from the New Testament that refer to the period of sovereignty following the appearance of the Mahdi:

1. *Dominion is nearby when the portents take place.*

Deleted: close at hand

He [Jesus] told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.” (Luke 21:29-31)

He [Jesus] said to the crowd: “When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, ‘It’s going to rain,’ and it does. And when the south wind blows, you say, ‘It’s going to be hot,’ and it is . . . You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don’t know how to interpret this present time?” (Luke 12:54-56)

2. *Belief in Allah rules the entire world.*

... the city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light. (Revelation 21:23)

... but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:13-14)

I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, “Know the Lord,” —because they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest. (Hebrews 8:10-11)

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations . . . (Matthew 24:14)

Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the Earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. (Revelation 14:6)

. . . his servants will serve Him [God]. (Revelation 22:3)

Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: “Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.” (Revelation 19:6)

3. *The collapse of materialism*

The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the Earth and everything in it will be laid bare . . . that day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. (2 Peter 3:10-12)

4. *The folly of unbelievers comes to the surface.*

. . . [These](#) men oppose the truth—men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected. But they will not get very far because . . . their folly will be clear to everyone. (2 Timothy, 3:8-9)

Deleted: these

5. *Believers govern the world.*

Then the King will say to those on his right, “Come, you who are blessed [by God] . . . take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.” (Matthew 25:34)

Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? (1 Corinthians 6:2)

Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. (Revelation 22:5)

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God that you may declare the praises of Him Who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Peter 2, 9)

Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? (James 2:5)

. . . but they will be priests of God...and will reign with Him for a thousand years.
(Revelation 20:6)

6. A new system of world government based on religious values

. . . The old order of things has passed away. (Revelation 21:4)

Deleted: the

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." (Revelation 21:5)

. . . Until the times of restitution of all. . . (Acts 3:21)

Deleted: until

Deleted: arestitution

7. Peace and justice reign supreme

Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness. (James 3:18)

8. The dominion of enormous wealth and splendour

Deleted: *splendor*

The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. (Revelation 21: 24-26)

9. The end of sorrows and troubles

. . . The only God our Savior Who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy. . . (Jude 1:24)

Deleted: the

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, mourning, crying, or pain. . . (Revelation 21:4)

Deleted: death or mourning or crying

No longer, will there be any curse. (Revelation 22:3)

Deleted: longer

There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun.
(Revelation 22:5)

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. (Revelation 7:17)

. . . "At the renewal of all things, everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much. . . "

Deleted: at

Deleted: things, . . .

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10. *An age of liberation as a blessing from Allah*

... Because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace. (Luke 1:78-79)

Deleted: because

... The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. (Titus 2:11)

Deleted: the

11. *The total eradication of the system of the Anti-Christ*

Deleted: christ

He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. (Revelation 20:2)

Deleted: satan

He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time. (Revelation 20:3)

12. *Moral degeneration comes to an end.*

Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful. . . . (Revelation 21:27)

... Through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. (2 Peter 1:4)

Deleted: through

13. *The spread of moral virtues*

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. (Matthew 5:5)

14. *A solution is found to global warming.*

The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. (Revelation 7:16)

15. *An end to famine and drought*

Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. . . . (Revelation 7:16)

SIGNS OF THE MAHDI'S COMING IN THE QUR'AN AND OTHER ISLAMIC SOURCES

By indicating, some 1400 years ago, various signs that will be manifested in the present day, our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace), has told us of a time when people will turn their backs on the moral values of the Qur'an, when there will be terrible, worldwide corruption, strife, chaos and degeneration. He has also revealed that in the wake of this, Allah will use a holy servant, bearing the title of the "Mahdi," to bring Qur'anic moral values to prevail across the world, and to replace the existing spiritual degeneration with virtue, peace, security, happiness and well-being. Our Prophet (May Allah bless him and grant him peace) has also described how during this time Prophet Jesus (pbuh), who had previously been raised into the presence of Allah, will once again return to Earth. By the will of Allah, the system of the Anti-Christ will be brought to a spiritual end and totally neutralized by Prophet Jesus (pbuh) and the blessed Mahdi during this holy age.

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The great majority of the signs discussed in this book have already taken place, and by the will of God, this age we are living in will be one of great well-being, in which the system of the Anti-Christ is defeated, and in which believers and the moral virtues of the true faith prevail across the world. Our Lord reveals how He will impose the moral virtues of the true faith through the light of faith:

Deleted: God

Deleted: christ

They desire to extinguish Allah's light with their mouths. But Allah refuses to do other than perfect His light, even though the unbelievers detest it. He sent His Messenger with guidance and the religion of Truth to exalt it over every other religion, even though the polytheists detest it. (Surat at-Tawba, 32-33)

Deleted: It is He Who

This promise of Allah's will very definitely be made good within the destiny appointed by Him. The blessed Mahdi will fulfil all the services promised by our Prophet (May Allah bless him and grant him peace) and will, by the will of Allah, impose the moral values of the Qur'an across the world. An age, which, because of its abundance and plenty, the comforts of all kinds it will bestow on mankind and its general atmosphere of peace, will be one that all Muslims will wish to live to see, is a most sublime blessing for the faithful in the life of this world.

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Deleted: age which

Our Prophet (May Allah bless him and grant him peace) has revealed the glad tidings of the coming of the Mahdi in the words "Hear the glad tidings of the blessed Mahdi. He is one of the Qureysh and is of my line."¹ (*Al-Burhan fi `Alamat al-Mahdi Akhir az-Zaman*, p. 13.), and he has revealed how believers must follow this worthy personage sent by God:

Deleted: may

... He (the Mahdi) will possess land and will fill the Earth, which before him was full of oppression and cruelty, with justice. Whoever lives to see him after you, let him join him even if he has to crawl over the snow. Let him join him, *because he is the Mahdi*.² (*Hadiths from Jalaluddin al-Suyuti's Classification: Signs of the Mahdi of the End Times* p. 14.)

¹ Al-Burhan fi `Alamat al-Mahdi Akhir az-Zaman, p. 13.

² Hadiths from Jalaluddin al-Suyuti's Classification: Signs of the Mahdi of the End Times p. 14.

SIGNS OF THE COMING OF THE MAHDI AND THE DOMINION OF ISLAMIC MORAL VALUES, ACCORDING TO THE QUR'AN

Signs in the Qur'an of the Coming of the Mahdi

Mahdi has been described in the hadiths of Prophet Muhammad (May Allah bless him and grant him peace) in considerable detail, with his name, attributes, helpers, the features of his time and his activities. So clear and detailed are the Prophet's (May Allah bless him and grant him peace) descriptions of the Mahdi that anyone seeing him in person will immediately be able to recognize him.

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It is related in a Qur'anic verse that the People of the Book will recognize the Prophet (May Allah bless him and grant him peace) "as they recognize their own sons":

Deleted: may

Those We have given the Book recognize him as they recognize their own sons. Yet a group of them knowingly conceal the truth. (Surat al-Baqara, 146)

Metaphorically, this verse also refers to the recognition of Mahdi. When he appears, people will recognize him, in the light of the Prophet's (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) descriptions, as they do their own sons. And Allah knows best.

One of the verses in the Qur'an pointing to the coming of Mahdi refers to "a messenger who will appear after Prophet Muhammad (may Allah bless him and grant him peace)."

Through this verse, Allah tells us that He has made a covenant with the prophets that they would believe in and help a messenger who will come after them:

Remember when Allah made a covenant with the prophets: "Now that We have given you a share of the Book and Wisdom, and then a messenger comes to you confirming what is with you, you must believe in him and help him." He asked, "Do you agree and undertake my commission on that condition?" They replied, "We agree." He said, "Bear witness, then. I am with you as one of the witnesses." (Surah Al 'Imran, 81)

The names of the prophets referred to in this verse, those reported to have made that covenant, are revealed in another verse:

When We made a covenant with all the prophets—with you and with Nuh and Ibrahim and Musa and 'Isa son of Maryam—We made a binding covenant with them. (Surat al-Ahzab, 7)

It is revealed in the verse that a covenant has been made with Prophets "Noah, Abraham, Moses and Jesus" and with "Prophet Muhammad (may Allah bless him and grant him peace)," as the term "with you" implies.

This revelation in the verse shows that “this messenger whose coming is described is not Prophet Muhammad (may Allah bless him and grant him peace), but is a messenger who will come after the Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace).” And Allah knows best. This messenger, whom Allah reveals will come after Prophet Muhammad (may Allah bless him and grant him peace), may well be “Mahdi,” the glad tidings of whose coming are related also in the sayings of our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace). And Allah knows best.

The way that the messenger whose coming has been promised has also received a promise of assistance from Jesus (pbuh), as reported in verse 7 of Surat al-Ahzab, further reinforces this view. That is because as we know, Prophet Jesus (pbuh) is reported in the hadith of the Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) as returning to Earth in the End Times and following and supporting Mahdi:

And when Jesus son of Maryam said, “Tribe of Israel, I am the Messenger of Allah to you, confirming the Torah which came before me and giving you the good news of a messenger after me whose name is Ahmad.” When he brought them the clear signs, they said, “This is downright magic.” (Surat as-Saff, 6)

Prophet Jesus (pbuh) imparts the tidings that this messenger who will come after him will be called “Ahmad.” Examination of the Qur’an as a whole shows that those verses referring to Prophet Muhammad (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) either use the name “Muhammad” or else just the term “prophet.” Nowhere in the Qur’an is the name “Ahmad” used for the Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace). The name appears only once in the Qur’an, in a verse revealing the glad tidings of a messenger. This supports the idea that the name “Ahmad” refers to Mahdi who will come in the End Times, as well as our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace). And Allah knows best. In addition, as in the previous verse, the fact that it is Prophet Jesus (pbuh) who imparts the name of the messenger is another piece of evidence reinforcing this interpretation.

In his hadiths our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) also provides the following information about the name of Mahdi:

... He has made the Mahdi, whose name is AHMAD, and whose father’s name is Abdullah, a ruler over you. Follow him. (al-Qawl al-mukhtass fi alamat al-mahdi al-muntazar, p. 31.)

... Follow him, He is the Mahdi. And his name is AHMAD bin Abdullah... (Alamat al-Qiyama, Madina Allama Muhammad bin Rasul al-Hussain al-Barzanji, Pamuk Publishing, 8th ed., p. 165.)

Ibn Masood (ra) reported that the Messenger of Allah (May Allah bless him and grant him peace) said, "His name will be similar to my name and his father's name to my father's name." (Abu Dawud, Tirmidhi)

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Some Verses Indicating the Coming of the Mahdi And the Global Dominion of Islamic Moral Values

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In addition, other things you love: support from Allah and imminent victory. Give good news to the believers! (Surat as-Saff, 13)

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We wrote down in the Zabur, after the Reminder came: “It is My servants who are righteous who will inherit the earth.” (Surat al-Anbiya’, 105)

Allah has promised those of you who believe and do right actions that He will make them successors in the land as He made those before them successors, and will firmly establish for them their religion with which He is pleased and give them, in place of their fear, security.... (Surat an-Nur, 55)

Our Word was given before to Our servants, the messengers, that they would certainly be helped. It is Our army, which will be victorious. (Surat as-Saffat, 171-173)

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Allah has written, “I will be victorious, I and My messengers.” Allah is Most Strong, Almighty. (Surat al-Mujadala, 21)

Do not imagine that Allah will break His promise to His messengers. Allah is Almighty, Exactor of Revenge. (Surah Ibrahim, 47)

It is He Who sent His Messenger with guidance and the Religion of Truth to exalt it over every other religion, though the idolaters hate it. (Surat as-Saff, 9)

It is He Who sent His Messenger with the Guidance and the Religion of Truth to exalt it over every other religion and Allah suffices as a witness. (Surat al-Fath, 28)

It is He Who sent His Messenger with guidance and the Religion of Truth to exalt it over every other religion, even though the idolaters detest it. (Surat at-Tawba, 33)

“We will leave you the land to live in after them. That is the reward of those who fear My station and fear My threat.” They asked for Allah’s victory, and every obdurate tyrant failed. (Surah Ibrahim, 14-15)

When Allah’s help and victory have arrived and you have seen people entering Allah’s religion in droves, then glorify your Lord’s praise and ask His forgiveness. He is the Ever-Returning. (Surat an-Nasr, 1-3)

Truly We have granted you a clear victory, so that Allah may forgive you your earlier errors and any later ones and complete His blessing upon you, and guide you on a Straight Path and so that Allah may help you with a mighty help. (Surat al-Fath, 1-3)

... He knew what you did not know and ordained, in place of this, an imminent victory.
(Surat al-Fath, 27)

... the unbelievers will soon know who has the Ultimate Abode. (Surat ar-Ra'd, 42)

... except those who believe and do right actions and remember Allah repeatedly and defend themselves after they have been wronged? Those who do wrong will soon know the kind of reversal they will receive! (Surat ash-Shu'ara', 227)

Then We will rescue Our messengers and those who believe as well. It is incumbent upon Us to rescue the believers. (Surah Yunus, 103)

Say: "Truth has come and falsehood has vanished. Falsehood is always bound to vanish." (Surat al-Isra', 81)

... Then We appointed you after them to be successors on the earth... (Surah Yunus, 13-14)

And We bequeathed to the people who had been oppressed the easternmost part of the land We had blessed, and its westernmost part as well... (Surat al-A'raf, 137)

They desire to extinguish Allah's Light with their mouths. However, Allah refuses to do other than perfect His Light, even though the unbelievers detest it. (Surat at-Tawba, 32)

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They desire to extinguish Allah's Light with their mouths but Allah will perfect His Light, though the unbelievers hate it. (Surat as-Saff, 8)

He bequeathed their land, their houses and their wealth to you, and another land you had not yet trodden on. Allah has power over all things. (Surat al-Ahzab, 27)

Say: "Everyone is waiting expectantly so wait expectantly. You will soon know who the Companions of the Right Path are and who is guided." (Surah Ta Ha, 135)

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Allah will give security those who had piety in their victorious Safe Haven. No evil will touch them and they will know no sorrow. (Surat az-Zumar, 61)

Rather We hurl the truth against falsehood, it cuts right through it, and it vanishes clean away! Woe without end for you for what you portray! (Surat al-Anbiya', 18)

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Allah confirms the Truth by His words, even though the evildoers hate it. (Surah Yunus, 82)

Those who, if We establish them firmly on the earth, will perform the prayer and give the alms, and command what is right and forbid what is wrong. The end result of all affairs is with Allah. (Surat al Hajj, 41)

Do not give up and do not be downhearted. You shall be uppermost if you are believers. (Surah Al 'Imran, 139)

THE COMING OF THE MAHDI AND HIS RULE, ACCORDING TO THE HADITHS OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD (MAY ALLAH BLESS HIM AND GRANT HIM PEACE)

The hadiths of our Prophet (May Allah bless him and grant him peace) contain very detailed information and signs regarding the End Times, which will take place close to Doomsday. According to this information, the End Times will be made up of two parts. The beginning of this holy time will be one of corruption, degeneration, disasters, conflict, wars and famine. But the second part will see the return to Earth of Prophet Jesus (pbuh) and the coming of the Mahdi, and will be a time of beauty when peace, security and freedom dominate the world—a period of plenty and abundance, when people will be happy in every regard.

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The hadiths contain hundreds of portents that reveal when and what form the End Times will begin. The way that the portents revealed by our Prophet (May Allah bless him and grant him peace) 1,400 years ago are taking place one after the other in our own day shows that the first portion of the End Times has already begun. With the fulfilment of these signs, the Islamic world has begun a hopeful and joyous expectation of the second coming of Prophet Jesus (pbuh) and the emergence of the Mahdi, putting an end to the corruption of the Anti-Christ (Dajjal) so that Islamic moral values will rule the world.

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Earlier books in this series have described, in the light of the authentic (*tawatur*) hadiths of our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace), the coming of the blessed Mahdi, and this holy personage's characteristics, physical appearance, and moral and intellectual superiority, his intellectual struggle, and the period of peace and security he will usher in. [For detailed information, see *Portents and Features of the Mahdi's Coming, The End of Times and the Mahdi, The Golden Age* by Harun Yahya.] For that reason, this book deals only with certain specific portents out of the hundreds of hadiths which reveal that the Mahdi has already appeared or else is about to do so.

Some of the hadiths of our Prophet (May Allah blesses him and grants him peace) concerning the End Times and related by great Islamic scholars are listed below:

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1. Successive Fulfilment of Portents of the Mahdi's Appearance:

. . . These [the portents of the appearance of the blessed Mahdi] will follow upon one another like the beads of a rosary. (Ali ibn Husamaddin al-Muttaki, *Hadiths from Jalaluddin al-Suyuti's Classification: Signs of the Mahdi of the End Times*, Kahraman Publications, p. 34.)

The signs of the Last Day will follow one another. Like beads strung out one behind the other. (*Ramuz al-Ahadith*, 277/6; *Al-Jami' al-Sagir*, 3/167.)

The portents of the End Times revealed in the hadiths are far too clear and definitive to leave any room for doubt. The most important point, however, is that they have taken place and are still occurring, in our own day and age. Some of these signs, of course, might have been observed at any time during Islam's 1,400-year history, anywhere in the world and in a specific environment. But that does not mean that those were the End Times, because in order for an age to qualify as the End Times revealed by Allah, *all* the portents—which we shall describe in some detail—must occur at the same time, one after the other.

2. The Iran-Iraq War

There will be tumult in Shawwal, talks of war in Dhu al-Qa'dah, and the outbreak of war in Dhu al-Hijja. (Muhammad ibn 'Abd al-Rasul Barzanji, *Al-Isha'ah li-Ashrat as-Sa'ah*, p. 166.)

Shawwal, Dhu al-Qa'dah, Dhu al-Hijja: First, second and third months of pilgrimage according to the Islamic calendar.

The months of Shawwal, Dhu al-Qa'dah and Dhu al-Hijja mention in the hadith correspond to the stages of development of the Iran-Iraq War:

Tumult in Shawwal . . .

The first uprising against the Shah took place on 5 Shawwal 1398 (8 September 1976), as indicated by the hadith.

Talks of war in Dhu al-Qa'dah, and the outbreak of war in Dhu al-Hijja...

A full-blown war broke out between Iran and Iraq in Dhu al-Hijjah 1400 (October 1980). Another hadith describes the details of this war:

A nation/tribe will come from the Farsi direction, saying: "You Arabs! You have been too zealous! If you don't give them their due rights, nobody will have an alliance with you . . . It must be given to them one day and to you the following day, and mutual promises must be kept . . . "They will be going up Mutekh; Muslims will be coming down to the plain. . . Mushrikun [polytheists] will be standing over there on the bank of a black river [Rakabeh] on the other side. There will be a war between them. Allah will deprive both armies of a victory. . . . (Muhammad ibn 'Abd al-Rasul Barzanji, *Al-Isha'ah li Ashrat as-Sa'ah*, p. 179)

- *Farsi*: Iran, Iranian

- *Mutekh*: Name of a mountain in the region

- *Yazi*: the Plain of Iraq

- *Rakabeh*: A region where the oil wells are concentrated

You Arabs! You have indulged yourselves to bigotry! Unless you grant due rights to them, no one will agree with you on a plan of action.

This part of the hadith states that a dispute will arise between the two sides, stemming from extreme nationalism. Because of that dispute, they will descend to Yazi (the Plain of Iraq), and war will begin.

Allah will not give victory to any one of the armies. . . .

Further, as noted by the hadith, the Iran-Iraq war lasted for eight years. Despite the many thousands of casualties, neither side could claim victory or a decisive superiority.

3. A Great Battle between the Tigris and the Euphrates

There will be a city called Zawra [Baghdad] between the Tigris and the Euphrates. There will be a great battle there. Women will be taken prisoner, and men will have their throats cut like sheep. (Muntakhab Kanz al-`Ummal, Vol. 5, p. 38.)

Quite likely, this hadith calls attention to the Iran-Iraq war, which saw many great clashes between these two Muslim countries. Heavy bombardments reduced villages, towns, and cities to rubble. Women, elderly people, and children lost their lives. After the war, the mass graves uncovered that the casualties were far higher than anticipated. The fact that conflict, chaos and anarchy are still going on in the region is in complete agreement with the hadith.

4. Stopping the Flow of the Euphrates

One of the portents of the Mahdi is: The stopping of the River Euphrates. (Small Book of Portents of the Mahdi of the End Times, p. 39.)

Soon the river Euphrates will disclose the treasure [the mountain] of gold. So, whoever will be present at that time should not take anything of it. (*Sahih Bukhari*)

Allah's Messenger (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) said: "The Hour will not come to pass before the river Euphrates dries up to unveil the mountain of gold, for which people will fight. Ninety-nine out of one hundred will die [in the fighting], and every man among them will say: 'Perhaps I may be the only one to remain alive.'" (*Sahih Bukhari, Sahih Muslim*)

The Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) said: "The Euphrates reveals the treasures within itself. Whoever sees it should not take anything from it." (Al-Muttaqi al-Hindi, *Al-Burhan fi `Alamat al-Mahdi Akhir az-Zaman*, p. 28.)

(1) . . . the River Euphrates dries up . . .

As-Suyuti mentions this hadith as "the stopping of water." The Keban Dam, built in 1975, has accomplished this.

(2) . . . unveils the mountain of gold. . .

The surrounding land has become as valuable as gold for various reasons, for the Keban Dam has enabled electricity production and higher soil fertility through irrigation and transport facilities.

The Keban and other dams lining the Euphrates resemble a concrete mountain, and wealth as valuable as gold comes out of it. Therefore, these dams take on the properties of "the golden mountain." (Allah knows best.)

(3) There will be conflict over this wealth, leading to many deaths

Because of the widespread anarchy and chaos that still persist in the region, those who buy land there may suffer losses. As the hadith puts it, they will either die or be killed.

5. Lunar and Solar Eclipses During Ramadan

There are two signs for the Mahdi. . . The first one is the lunar eclipse in the first night of Ramadan, and the second is the solar eclipse in the middle of this month. (Ibn Hajar al-Haythami, *Al-Qawl al-Mukhtasar fi `Alamat al-Mahdi al-Muntazar*, p. 47.)

The solar eclipse in the middle of the Ramadan, and the lunar eclipse at the end . . . (Al-Muttaqi al-Hindi, *Al-Burhan fi `Alamat al-Mahdi Akhir az-Zaman*, p. 37.)

During his [Mahdi's] reign, on the fourteenth of the Ramadan, a solar eclipse will occur. On the first of that month, the Moon will darken. . . (Imam Rabbani, *Letters of Rabbani*, p. 380; *Letters of Rabbani*, Vol. 2, p. 1163.)

A lunar eclipse will occur in the first night of the Ramadan. In the middle of the Ramadan, a solar eclipse will occur. (Muhammad ibn `Abd al-Rasul Barzanji, *Al-Isha`ah li-Ashrat as-Sa`ah*, p. 199.)

The most striking points here are that a solar eclipse will take place in the middle of the month, and two solar and two lunar eclipses will take place within one month (Ramadan).

In line with these calculations, there was a lunar eclipse in 1981 (Hijri 1401) on Ramadan 15 and a solar eclipse on Ramadan 29. There was a "second" lunar eclipse in 1982 (Hijri 1402) on Ramadan 14, and a solar eclipse on Ramadan 28.

These incidents occurring during the same period coinciding with the signs of the Mahdi's emergence, and their miraculous recurrence for two consecutive years at the onset of the fifteenth Islamic century (1401-02), indicates that they might be the signs foretold by the hadiths.

Moreover, an astoundingly similar series of eclipses occurred in the years 2002 and 2003.

DATES AND TYPES OF ECLIPSES

Lunar Eclipse November 20, 2002

Hijri 1423 (in the middle of Ramadan)

Solar Eclipse December 4, 2002

Hijri 1423 (at the end of Ramadan)

Lunar Eclipse November 9, 2003

Hijri 1424 (in the middle of Ramadan)

Solar Eclipse November 23, 2003

Hijri 1424 (at the end of Ramadan)

6. The Occupation of Afghanistan

Pity poor Taliqan [a region in Afghanistan]. At that place are treasures of Allah, but these are not of gold and silver but consist of people who have recognised Allah as they should have. They are the Mahdi's servants. (Al-Muttaqi al-Hindi, *Al-Burhan fi `Alamat al-Mahdi Akhir az-l-Zaman*, p. 59.)

The hadith may well refer to Afghanistan's being invaded in the time of the blessed Mahdi. In fact, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan took place in 1979, or 1400 Hijri or at the beginning of Hijri 14th century. The hadiths tell us that the Mahdi will appear at the beginning of that century. The fact that many other portents regarding the blessed Mahdi have taken place in 1400 Hijri and at the beginning of the 1400s shows that these dates have a particular significance in terms of the coming of the Mahdi.

7. Sighting a Flare in the East

A big flame will occur in the east for three or seven days in a row, followed by darkness in the sky and a brand-new redness unlike the usual color of red spreading over the sky. A proclamation will be heard in a language Earth can understand. (Muhammad ibn `Abd al-Rasul Barzanji, Al-Isha`ah li-Ashrat as-Sa`ah, p. 166.)

"This is a hadith narrated by Abu Ja`far b. Muhammad b. Ali (ra). When you see a flame rise in the east for three or seven days, then wait for the emergence of Ali Muhammad; Allah will proclaim from the sky uttering the name of the Mahdi and everybody, whether in the east or the west, will hear that voice." (Al-Muttaqi al-Hindi, *Al-Burhan fi `Alamat al-Mahdi Akhir az-Zaman*, p. 32.)

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"I swear that a flame will engulf you. That flame is presently in an extinguished state at the valley called Berehut. That flame swallows up people with terrible pain inside it, burns down and destroys people and property, and spreads all over the world by flying like a cloud with the assistance of winds. Its heat at night is much higher than its daytime temperature. By going as deep as the center of Earth from above the heads of people, that flame becomes a terrible noise, just like the lightning between the ground and the sky," he narrated. (*Mukhtasar Tazkirah al-Qurtubi*, p. 461.)

Some people wait for this flame as a sign that comes suddenly and for no particular reason, that never goes out, and that everyone in the world can see. Since the test in this world continues during the occurrence of these signs, just because people will see them does not mean that they will understand them. Thus, people will make their decisions by using their intellects, minds, consciences, and will. The portents concerning the flame must be evaluated in this manner.

The first part of the hadith says that the flame "is presently in an extinguished state." Given that the flame results from burning a flammable substance, what waits "in an extinguished state" is not the flame itself, but rather the material to be burned. In this context, this may mean underground oil. "Berehut" is the name of a well. This can be considered as an oil well. When the time comes, oil extracted from these wells will become a fire ready to be burned.

"That flame swallows up people with terrible pain inside it." That flame is not merely a burning flare that makes people miserable and sorrowful, but also deprives them of their lives and possessions, and contaminates the surrounding environment.

"That flame . . . burns down and destroys people and property." It causes the death of certain people and in addition, burns down property, causing material damage and, by polluting the surrounding environment, destroys what people need in order to live.

". . . Spreads all over the world by flying like a cloud with the assistance of winds." This particular element is the smoke that the flame it produces. Thus, this hadith indicates that the smoke will reach as high as the clouds and be spread by the wind in all directions.

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"Its heat at night is much higher than its daytime temperature." In other words, the flame will burn around the clock.

"By going as deep as the center of Earth from above the heads of people, that flame makes a terrible noise, just like the thunder between the ground and the sky." The flame will climb very high into the air and cause very strong explosions resembling a thunder.

". . . A brand-new redness unlike the usual color of red spreading over the sky. . . " This part of the hadith points out that the incident will occur at night, with the flames of a large explosion leading to a very strong illumination. The reddish illumination caused by such flames is very different from the reddishness of "dawn with which people are familiar. Such an illumination at night, very similar to daylight, is an extraordinary phenomenon.

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In July 1991, after Iraq invaded Kuwait, fires spread throughout Kuwait and the Persian Gulf as the Iraqis fired Kuwait's oil wells. This is how the media described these fires:

- The burning oil in Kuwait led to the deaths of people and animals. According to experts, half a million tons of oil went up into the atmosphere as smoke. Every day, more than 10,000 tons of

soot, sulfur, carbon dioxide and large quantities of hydrocarbons with their carcinogenic properties hang suspended over the Gulf. It is not just the Gulf but, on its behalf, the world is burning.ⁱ

Two wells that were set alight produced as much oil as Turkey does in one day, and the smoke from them were even seen from Saudi Arabia, 55 kilometers away.ⁱⁱ

An endless litany of disasters in the Gulf: Hundreds of oil wells set alight in Kuwait are still burning fiercely. Experts say it will be "exceedingly difficult to put those fires out," and it is said that the fires may affect a wide area from Turkey to India for the next 10 years.ⁱⁱⁱ

8. The Rise of a Comet

A star with a luminous tail will rise from the east before the Mahdi emerges. (Muhammad ibn `Abd al-Rasul Barzanji, *Al-Isha`ah li Ashrat as-Sa`ah*, p. 200.)

Before he [the Mahdi] arrives, a comet will appear in the east, giving out an illumination. (Ibn Hajar al-Haythami, *Al-Qawl al-Mukhtasar fi `Alamat al-Mahdi al-Muntazar*, p. 53.)

The rise of that star will occur after the eclipse of the Sun and the Moon. (Al-Muttaqi al-Hindi, *Al-Burhan fi `Alamat al-Mahdi Akhir az-Zaman*, p. 32.)

Throughout history, comets have heralded times of very important developments for Muslims, some of which became milestones in Islamic history. The Companions of the Prophet (May Allah blesses him and grants him peace) also narrated some of these occurrences, as follows:

- The people in the time Prophet Noah (pbuh) drowned.
- Prophet Abraham (pbuh) was cast into the fire.
- Pharaoh and his people were perished.
- Prophet John (pbuh) was killed.
- Prophet Jesus (pbuh) was born.
- Our Prophet (May Allah bless him and grant him peace) was honoured with prophecy.
- The Ottoman state first entered the world stage.
- Constantinople was captured by Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror.

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Some interesting statistics regarding Halley's Comet:

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Particularly striking is the way that multiples of 19 keep occurring in the appearances of this comet:

*Halley's comet passes by once every 76 years ($76 = 19 \times 4$)

*The comet was last seen in Hijri 1406 ($1406 = 19 \times 74$)

Another interesting aspect of this is that the year Hijri 1406, when Halley's comet last passed by, is also an exact multiple of 19 (74×19). The number 74 is also that of Surat al-Muddaththir, in

which the miracle of the number 19 is set out. (For detailed information about the miracle of the number 19, see *The Miracles of the Quran*, Harun Yahya)

In verse 30 of Surat al-Muddaththir (the 74th sura), the number 19 is revealed as a great blessing for believers, but a vehicle for strife for unbelievers.

This miraculous link between Halley's comet and the number 19 may indicate strife for unbelievers and a blessing for believers.

In verses 1 and 2 of Surat al-Muddaththir, Prophet Muhammad (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) is told: **"You who are enveloped in your cloak! Arise and warn."** This is the outward meaning of the verses. However, the verses may also contain a second, secret sign: The word "enveloped" may refer to the Mahdi, who will be descended from the Prophet (May Allah bless him and grant him peace). And one of the portents of his appearance will take place in Hijri 1406 (the year of the comet).

Surat al-Muddaththir (sura 74)

1. . . . You who are enveloped in your cloak!

2. . . . Arise and warn.

(The word *muddaththir* means that which is covered up or concealed.)

Another great sign and miracle is that the appearance of Halley's comet in 1986 (Hijri 1406) is the **19th such passage** since 607 AD, when the blessed Muhammad (May Allah bless him and grant him peace) was honored with prophecy.

9. Storming the Ka`bah and the Subsequent Bloodshed:

The year, in which he [the Mahdi] will emerge, people will perform pilgrimage together and gather without an imam. The pilgrims will be looted, and there will be a battle at Mina in which many will be slain, and blood will flow until it runs over the Jamra al-'Aqaba. [*Jamra: one of the stone pillars representing Satan that are stoned during the pilgrimage.*] (Narrated by `Amr ibn Shu`ayb, al-Hakim and Nu`aym ibn Hammad.)

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People make pilgrimage without an imam leading them. Big wars break out when they come down to Mina, and they are entwined just the way dogs entwine, and tribes attack each other. This strife is so widespread that legs are buried in lakes of blood. (Al-Muttaqi al-Hindi, *Al-Burhan fi `Alamat al-Mahdi Akhir az-Zaman*, p. 35.)

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In the month of Dhu al-Qa`dah, the tribes will wage war, pilgrims will be kidnapped, and there will be bloody wars Great sins will be committed beside the Ka`bah. (Al-Muttaqi al-Hindi, *Al-Burhan fi `Alamat al-Mahdi Akhir az-Zaman*, p. 34.)

The phrase "the year in which he [the Mahdi] will emerge" draws attention to a massacre that will occur on the date of the Mahdi's emergence. In 1979, a massacre very like this one occurred during the Ka`bah raid, which took place during the pilgrimage month at the very beginning of the

period during which the signs of Mahdi's advent appeared—the first day of the Islamic year 1400 (21 November 1979).

The hadiths also mention bloodshed. The killing of 30 people during the clashes between Saudi soldiers and militants during the raid fulfill the rest of this hadith.

Seven years later, an even bloodier incident happened during the pilgrimage. In this incident, 402 demonstrating pilgrims were killed. Both the Saudi soldiers and the Iranian pilgrims committed great sins by killing one another. These bloody incidents have strong parallels to the incidents described in the hadiths.

There will be rebellion in Shawwal, talk of war in Dhu al-Qa'dah, and an act of war in Dhu al-Hijja. Pilgrims will be despoiled, and their blood will flow [over the Ka'bah]. (Muhammad ibn `Abd al-Rasul Barzanji, *Al-Isha'ah li Ashrat as-Sa'ah*, p. 166.)

Great sins will be committed beside the Ka'bah.

This hadith draws attention to the incidents that will occur near the Ka'bah. The incidents during the Hijri year 1407 actually took place near the Ka'bah, and not inside it, unlike the event of 1400 (Hijri year). Both incidents happened just as the hadiths indicated that they would.

It is no mere coincidence that two such major events as bloodshed in the Ka'bah and the killing of pilgrims, as reported in the hadiths, should take place one after the other in the period when all portents regarding the Mahdi are coming true.

[There will be] outbreak of war, massacre and carnage in [the month of] Dhu al-Hijja.

The fact that this war and conflict is discussed together with the killing of pilgrims shows that these events will take place in the same period of time. During that same period, the Iran-Iraq war broke out, and the world saw the worst fighting and chaos in the Middle East.

10. A Sign Out of the Sun

He [*the Mahdi*] will not come unless a sign emerges out of the Sun. (Ibn Hajar al-Haythami, *Al-Qawl al-Mukhtasar fi `Alamat al-Mahdi al-Muntazar*, p. 49.)

Another sign of Doomsday is extraordinary solar flares. During the twentieth century, a great solar explosion took place and had a great impact upon the world. The sign referred to in the hadith may well be this great explosion.

11. A Solar Eclipse:

The Mahdi will not emerge unless the Sun rises as a sign. (Al-Muttaqi al-Hindi, *Al-Burhan fi `Alamat al-Mahdi Akhir az-Zaman*, p. 33.)

Along with the solar explosion mentioned above, the "sign" to appear on the Sun may well

be the great solar eclipse on August 11, 1999—the last total solar eclipse of the twentieth century, and the first time that so many people had been able to watch and study an eclipse for so long.

12. The Appearance of Dusty, Smoky Strife:

... **There** will be a dusty and smoky tribulation like patches of dark night. . . . (Sunan Abu Dawud)

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The word "tribulation" (*fitna*) implies war, incitement, chaos, disorder, and conflict—anything that turns peoples' reason and hearts away from the true path.^{iv} The tribulation mentioned in this hadith will leave behind smoke and dust.

This hadith could well refer to 9/11, one of the world's worst terrorist attacks, when New York City and Washington DC, were attacked. As television screens and newspapers depicted, a huge thick cloud of dust and smoke swallowed up the immediate surroundings in lower Manhattan.

This incident, one of the most serious acts of terror in history, occurred along with other signs and bears characteristics similar to ones described in the hadith. Therefore, this act may well be the "tribulation like patches of dark night" foretold as the sign of the Mahdi's emergence. (Allah knows best.)

13. A Change of Systems

A man called the Mahdi will come at a time when time is interrupted (Al-Muttaqi al-Hindi, *Al-Burhan fi `Alamat al-Mahdi Akhir az-Zaman*, p. 14.)

In this hadith, our Prophet (**May** Allah bless him and grant him peace) foretold that the Mahdi would come when "time is interrupted." Many scholars interpret this expression as a "differentiation of time" when a "change of systems" takes place. This "change of systems" may be the collapse of communism, the governing ideology of many nations, toward the end of the twentieth century.

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14. Killing of the Rulers of Damascus and Egypt

Before he comes, the inhabitants of Egypt and Sham will kill their rulers and their commanders (Ibn Hajar al-Haythami, *Al-Qawl al-Mukhtasar fi `Alamat al-Mahdi al-Muntazar*, p. 49.)

In 1981, Anwar al-Sadat (President of Egypt since 1970) was assassinated during a military review. Other Egyptian leaders who have been killed include the **Prime** ministers Boutros Ghali (1910), Prime Minister Ahmed Maher Pasha (1945), and Mahmoud Nukrashy Pasha (1948).

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The word *Sham* is not used only for Damascus, for it also means "left" and has long been

used to refer to those countries to the west of the Hijaz (where the cities of Makka and Madina lie).^v Many leaders have been killed in the region, among them former Syrian prime ministers Salah al-Din Bitar (1920), Droubi Pasha (1921), Muhsin al-Barazi (1949), King Abdullah of Jordan (1951), and the Lebanese Phalange leader Bashir Gemayel (1982).^{vi}

15. **The Killing of Abdullah, former King of Jordan:**

Another portent of the Mahdi's coming is the killing of a senior member of the Hashemites. (*Risalat al-Khuru'j al-Mahdi*, p. 12.)

Jordan, known as the Hashemite kingdom, was detached from the Ottoman Empire and came under British control for a period of time. Great Britain recognized Jordanian independence in 1946, as part of the Treaty of London. The monarchy was given to Abdullah, head of the principality of Jordan. King Abdullah was later killed in 1951. [Thus](#), the incident foretold in the hadith came to pass.

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16. **The Loss of an Army:**

There are five portents of the Mahdi: ... the sinking of an army in Bayda ... (Narrated by Nu'aym ibn Hammad)

An army will be sent to him. This army will be leveled while it is somewhere in the desert. (Sahih Muslim)

An army comes to fight. Once they enter the desert, the one in the front and the back disappear, and the ones in the middle cannot save themselves. (Tirmidhi, Sunan Ibn Majah, Sunan Abu Dawud)

The almost sudden disappearance of a large part of the Iraqi army was one of the most striking features of the 2003 American-led war against Iraq. Many newspapers and television channels reported that a 60,000-man army from the Republican Guard, along with some 15,000 Iraqi militiamen from the Fedayeen, got "lost." This account indicates that "the loss of an army," a portent of the Mahdi's coming, and hence of Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) second coming, may already have taken place. (Allah knows best.) In fact, the discovery of some war planes buried under the desert sands reinforces the possibility that the "leveling of an army" refers to the Iraqi army.

17. **No Money Will Be Left to the Iraqis**

The Iraqis will be left with no weighing equipment, and no money will be left to them with which to buy and sell. (*Muntakhab Kanz al-'Ummaal*, Vol. 5, p. 45.)

This hadith may indicate two situations. One is Iraq's economic collapse after the Iran-Iraq

and the Gulf wars. The Iraqi economy, faced with such crises, could not recover in the postwar period due to the embargos imposed by the U.S.A. and the U.N. The Iraqi people grew even poorer, and famine became a major problem.

Or it might also refer to abolishing the dinar, the Iraqi unit of currency in the postwar era. During 2003, the rapid loss of the Iraqi currency's value and the possibility of its being withdrawn from circulation appeared in the newspapers.

18. **Flames Destroy Homes in Baghdad**

Baghdad is destroyed by fire in the End Times. . . . (*Risalat al-Khuru'j al-Mahdi*, Vol. 3, p. 177.)

From the very first day of the Second Gulf War in 2003, Baghdad was the target of very intensive bombing. Under heavy bombardment, the city burned, just as the hadith said it would. Images of Baghdad, appearing on TV and in newspapers, conveyed this reality to the world—a clear indication that we are living in the End Times.

19. **An Embargo Against Iraq and Damascus:**

“It may happen that the people of Iraq may not send their qafiz [their measures of food-stuff] and dirhams [their money].” We said: “Who would be responsible for it?” He said: “The non-Arabs would prevent them.” He again: “There is the possibility that the people of Syria may not send their dinar and mudd.” We said: “Who would be responsible for it?” He said: “This prevention would be made by the Romans.” (Sahih Muslim)

The embargos imposed upon Iraq and Damascus are signs of the End Times. For more than a decade, Iraq had endured embargos. Meanwhile, there exists the possibility of placing an embargo upon Syria.

20. **The Restructuring of Iraq:**

Doomsday will not come until Iraq is attacked. Innocent people in Iraq will seek shelter in Sham. Sham will be rebuilt, and Iraq will be rebuilt. (*Muntakhab Kanz al'Ummal*, Vol. 5, p. 254.)

The hadith draws attention to the reconstruction of Iraq, many of whose cities were reduced to rubble during the Iran-Iraq war, and then again during the two Gulf wars of 1991 and 2003. After this latest war, Iraq's rebuilding became a necessity because so much of it had been ruined. Looting also contributed to this situation, as was widely discussed in the press.

21. **Iraqis Flee to Damascus and the North:**

The innocent and clean people of Iraq will flee to Sham. (*Risalat al-Khuruaj al-Mahdi*, p. 210.)

Innocent people in Iraq will seek shelter towards Sham. . . . (*Kanzul Ummal, Kitab al-Qiyamah, qism al-af'al*, Vol. 5, p. 254, al-Muttaki)

Immediately before the outbreak of the latest Gulf war, tens of thousands of Iraqis sought to migrate to other countries, especially Syria. This bears great similarity to the event described in the hadith. News and pictures about this attempted migration appeared in the media.

22. **Fitna in Damascus:**

The tribulation in Sham will calm down on the one hand and flare up again on another. This corruption will not end until an angel from the sky calls: "The Mahdi is your leader. The Mahdi is your caliph." (*Risalat al-Khuruaj al-Mahdi*, p. 63.)

This hadith very probably refers to the chaos that took place in Syria. However, the Sham region is not limited to Damascus, the Syrian capital, alone. As mentioned earlier, *Sham* means "the left" and refers to those countries to the west of the Hijaz (which includes the cities of Mecca and Medina).

During the early years of the twentieth century, civil wars, rebellions, conflict and great wars were already raging in this region. These conflicts triggered one another and greatly affected all the people living there. The statement that "This tribulation . . . will calm down on the one hand and flare up again on another" is noteworthy in that over the last fifty years, several major conflicts occurred in this region, among them the Suez War, the Six-Day War, the Yom Kippur War, the Lebanese Civil War, and the ongoing tension in Palestine.

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23. **Chaos in Damascus, Iraq, and Arabian Peninsula:**

Our Prophet (May Allah bless him and grant him peace) said: "There will be such troubles and calamities that nobody will be able to find a place of shelter. These woes will move around Sham, fall upon Iraq, and tie the hands and feet of the Arabian Peninsula. The community of Islam will fight against troubles in the steppes. Nobody will feel any sympathy for them or even say: "Alas!" As they try to remedy their woes on the one hand, they will emerge again on the other." (*Muntakhab Kanz al-Ummal*, Vol. 5, pp. 38-39.)

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The expression, "The woes will move around Sham, fall upon Iraq" may well indicate the Second Gulf war in 2003. Before and during this war, there was always the possibility of the conflict extending into Syria; however, the war remained limited to Iraq.

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24. The Division of Iraq into Three Parts:

According to our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace), the people of Iraq will be divided into three groups. One part will join the looters. One group will flee, leaving their families behind. In addition, one group will fight and kill. Prepare yourselves for Doomsday when you see this. (*Fera Idu Fevaidi'l Fiqr Fi'l Imam al-Mahdi al-Muntadhar*)

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As the hadith relates, some Iraqis will join the “looters.” Indeed, at the end of the war, some Iraqis took advantage of the loss of authority and engaged in looting. In fact, some of these people stole and pillaged, acts that can be defined as looting.

The hadith informs us that some people would be so eager to escape that they would not even think about the families they left behind. The hadith also tells that some people would fight and be killed. During this latest Gulf war, some Iraqis fought and died.

“The division of Iraq into three,” as is related in the hadith's first section, also came true after the first Gulf War in 1991, when the country was divided into three regions: between the 32th and 36th parallels, south of the 32th parallel, and north of the 36th parallel.

25. War in the Streets:

“Between the Tigris and the Euphrates, a city will be built where the children of Abbas will reign. It is called Zawra [Baghdad]. . . .” “O Rasul al-Akram, the leader of believers, why is it called Zawra?” “It is called Zawra because the war surrounds it, expanding to the borders.” (*Mukhtasar Tazkirah al-Qurtubi*, p. 426, No. 776.)

You do not see for I am seeing the places of turmoil between your houses as the places of rainfall. (*Sahih Muslim, Doomsday: Portents & Prophecies*, p. 84.)

In the twentieth century, guerilla warfare became widespread. The ensuing conflicts often take place in streets and between houses. The most recent example occurred in Baghdad in 2003. Indeed, the first hadith above relates that a war will expand to all the corners of Baghdad. The events of the latest Gulf war and the related news reported by the media confirm the news foretold in the hadiths. (Allah knows best.)

26. The Occurrence of Great and Astonishing Events:

So many appalling incidents will occur in his [the Mahdi's] time. (Imam Rabbani, *Letters of Rabbani*, Vol. 2, p. 258.)

The signs of his [the Mahdi's] emergence resemble those preparatory signs that earlier gave an indication of our Rasulullah. (Imam Rabbani, *Letters of Rabbani*, Vol. 2, p. 258.)

Great and extraordinary events preceded the birth of our Prophet Muhammad (may Allah

bless him and grant him peace). For example, a new star rose on that night, 14 towers of the Iranian Emperor's Palace collapsed, the fire of the fire-worshipping Magians' in Iran that had burned for 1,000 years went out, the Semavi Valley was flooded, and the Save Lake dried up.

As indicated in the above hadiths, the Mahdi's appearance will resemble that of our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace). Great and miraculous phenomena will also take place when he emerges.

Some of the remarkable phenomena that took place during the last century are as follows:

- The Ka`bah was raided, and many Muslims were killed.
- - The 2,500-year Iranian monarchy collapsed, and Mohammad Reza Pahlavi died.
- - A gas leak in a Bombay factory killed 20,000 people.
- - War broke out between two Muslim nations: Iran and Iraq.
- - The Soviet Union occupied Afghanistan.
- - On September 19, 1985, Mexico City was devastated by an earthquake.
- - The Nevado del Ruiz volcano erupted, wiping the town of Armero off the map and killing 25,000 people.
- - Floods in Bangladesh killed 25,000 people.
- - Rome, the heart of the Catholic Church, was flooded.
- - The worst forest fire in history broke out in China.
- - Indian Prime Minister Gandhi, President Anwar al-Sadat of Egypt, and Swedish Prime Minister Olaf Palme were assassinated.
- - Pope John Paul II was shot.
- - The AIDS virus, identified in 1980, has so far killed millions of people and is known as a modern-day plague."
- - The *Challenger* space shuttle exploded after take-off in 1986 ,
- - The worst nuclear accident in history occurred when the Chernobyl nuclear reactor in the Soviet Union exploded on 26 April 1986, and the released radiation affected many European countries.
- - A hole was discovered in the ozone layer.
- - The Soviet Union collapsed, thanks to Gorbachev, and the newly independent states of Central Asia emerged.
- - The Gulf War broke out, Iraq annexed and then fled Kuwait, and was finally occupied by America and Britain in 2003.
- - An earthquake in Armenia reduced cities to rubble, causing 500,000 people to leave their homes and more than 40,000 dead.
- - The Chinese government sent its tanks into Tienanmen Square during 1989 to crush a student movement demanding greater freedom; 2,000 students died.
- - The Berlin Wall, which for 28 years had symbolized the Cold War, was torn down.
- - More than 1,400 pilgrims were killed in a stampede at a tunnel in the Ka`bah in 1990.
- - Approximately 139,000 people died from flooding in Bangladesh in 1991, and ten million were left homeless.
- - Hundreds of thousands of Muslims were killed in the atrocities in Bosnia and Kosovo, and hundreds of thousands more were exiled.
- - The Ebola virus led to the deaths of a few hundreds.

- - The hurricanes, tornadoes, whirlwinds, and floods caused by El Niño led to the deaths of thousands of people, to millions fleeing their homes, and to billions of dollars worth of damage.
- - The London Stock Exchange collapsed on October 19, 1987, and the ensuing panic resulted in a value loss of 50 billion British pounds.
- - 168 people were killed in a bomb attack on a federal building in Oklahoma City on 19 April 1995.
- - In 1997, the Hale-Bopp Comet passed so close to Earth that it could be seen with the naked eye.
- - 1,500 people died in an earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale in Iran on 10 May 1997.
- - 5,000 people died in an earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale in Afghanistan on February 1998.
- - 1,171 people were killed in an earthquake measuring 6.0 on the Richter scale in Columbia on 25 January 1999.
- - More than 2,100 people died in an earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale in Taiwan on 21 September 1999.
- - The biggest-ever terrorist attack on America took place on September 11, 2001. Within 18 minutes of each other, two passenger airplanes crushed into the World Trade Center in New York City. Another plane crashed into the Pentagon. Over 5,000 people died.
- - An earthquake measuring 7.9 on the Richter scale struck India, killing thousands of people.
- - Many European countries have experienced heat waves that have killed many people.
- - Mars was closer to Earth in August 2003 than at any other time in the past 60,000 years.
- - The deadly SARS virus spread in 2003.
- - Twelve lost their lives as floods hit Mecca, one of the most arid regions in the world.
- - 86,000 lives lost in the Iranian earthquake on 27 December 2003. The city of Bam was completely devastated.
- - A total of 208 people have so far lost their lives as a result of bird flu, first observed in birds in Asia.
- - An earthquake in the Indian Ocean on 26 December 2004, measuring 9.1 to 9.3 on the Richter scale and the following 30-meter tsunami lead to the deaths of some 300,000 people in 11 countries, particularly Indonesia. More than 1 million people were left homeless. This earthquake, the second most severe ever recorded, has been described as the deadliest in history.
- - On 23 August 2005, Hurricane Katrina, one of the deadliest hurricanes in history, causes the deaths of around 2,000 people and economic damage of \$100 billion, the highest figure ever. Many settled areas, particularly the city of New Orleans, had to be evacuated.
- - 75,000 lives lost in an earthquake in Kashmir on 8 October 2005, with more than 100,000 injured.

27. The Loss of Hope of the Coming of the Mahdi:

Allah Almighty will send the Mahdi after despair has reached the point that people will say: "There is no Mahdi." (Narrated by Nu'aym ibn Hammad)

The above hadith reveals that another of the portents of the End Times is people's increasing abandonment of belief in the Mahdi's coming. This state of mind can frequently be observed in the present day. Despite the existence of countless hadiths about the Mahdi's coming, Prophet Jesus' (pbuh) return, and the Golden Age characterized by great blessings, many people doubt that such a period will ever come. This assumption is also a sign of the End Times. In a time of despair, people will enjoy the benefits of the prevailing Qur'anic morality, thanks to Allah's mercy.

28. Pervasive Corruption:

Islamic literature defines *fitna* as "hard times" such as civil strife, war, or riots, during which evil forces attempt ~~to~~, weaken and even eradicate people's faith.

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One hadith reveals that the believers' faith will weaken in the End Times ~~and~~ provides information about the developments that will lead to this:

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The Mahdi, one of my children, comes into being, by the blessing of Allah, upon the approach of the Day of Judgment; the weakening of the believers' hearts because of death, hunger, fitna and the disappearance of the Sunnah; and the emergence of innovations and the loss of means by which to enjoin the right and forbid the wrong. His justice and prosperity will ease the believers' hearts, and friendship and love will settle between the non-Arab and the Arab nations. (Al-Muttaqi al-Hindi, *Al-Burhan fi `Alamat al-Mahdi Akhir az-Zaman*, p. 66.)

Briefly, the following events will take place before the End Times and the Mahdi's appearance:

- 1- *Death*: As a consequence of anarchy and mass murder, people will not be safe and will be greatly concerned about dying.
- 2- *Hunger*: The struggle to make a living will become harder because the cost of living will rise. Natural disasters and catastrophes will lead to starvation and hunger.
- 3- *Fitna*: Such troubles will spread and encourage unlawful and immoral acts among all people, both in public and in private.
- 4- *Innovation (bid'at)*: Adoption of some rituals or innovations on the grounds that they are essential components of Islam, although they violate the teachings of the Qur'an and the Sunnah.
- 5- - *Disappearance of an environment* that allows the communication of Allah's message: Believers will be hindered from enjoining the good and forbidding the evil, and a spiritual decline will occur as a result.

Such fitna will lead to a stronger faith, an increase in patience and rewards in the Hereafter for the believers' having a solid faith, while weakening further the faith of those with weak faith. The latter group might even lose their faith completely.

The Mahdi will appear when such fitna is prevalent.

Other hadiths and Islamic scholars state that the Mahdi will appear when a particular type of fitna has become worldwide.

The Mahdi will come when fitnas appear. (Imam Rabbani, *Letters of Rabbani*, vol. 2, p. 258.)

Disorder, corruption [fitna], and fear will emerge in the West . . . Corruption will proliferate. (*Mukhtasar Tazkirah al-Qurtubi*, p. 440.)

29. The Emergence of Widespread Slaughter:

Before the Mahdi there will be widespread slaughter and terrible corruption. (The Book of Portents of the Mahdi of the End Times, p. 37.)

The Mahdi will only appear at a time when people are experiencing great fear and are afflicted by disturbances, civil war, and other disasters. (Narrated by Abu Ja`far Muhammad ibn `Ali)

Most painful situations and grievous sights will be seen. Strife will go on and on. . . It will kill mothers, fathers, daughters, men, and everyone . . . Among these will be strife, violence, destruction, and looting. People will ask when it will end, but it will still go on. (Al-Muttaqi al-Hindi, *Al-Burhan fi `Alamat al-Mahdi Akhir az-Zaman*, p. 36.)

... The Mahdi will appear when the inhabitants of the Earth and Sky can no longer bear the slaughter... (The Book of Portents of the Mahdi of the End Times, p. 37.)

... Will make bloodshed lawful and be the enemy of Al-i-Muhammad (Ali ibn Husamaddin al-Muttaki, *Hadiths from Jalaluddin al-Suyuti's Classification: Signs of the Mahdi of the End Times*, Kahraman Publications, p. 37.)

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. . . The shedding of blood . . . is one of the signs of the Last Day. (*Alamat al-Qiyama*, p. 142.)

The hadith forecasts massacres that will occur all over the world.

During the twentieth century's two world wars, an estimated 65 million people were killed. The number of civilians slaughtered for political reasons during the same century is estimated to be well over 180 million. This is an extraordinarily high figure when compared with those of previous centuries. Wars and conflicts are still going on all over the world in the 21st century. Their common feature is, as stated in the above hadith, all these wars have entailed the mass slaughter of civilians.

30. Pervasiveness of Global Chaos and Conflict:

The Prophet ([May](#) Allah bless him and grant him peace) said: "Fitna will spread after me. Terror and war will rage. Then, there will be greater fitnas. When people will say that the fitna has ended, new rebellions will appear. Until someone from my lineage [*the Mahdi*] emerges, there will be no home in Arabia into which fitna will not enter and a Muslim to whom fitna will not reach." (*Fera Idu Fevaidi'l Fiqr Fi'l Imam al-Mahdi al-Muntadhar*, p. 147.)

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At a time when the world will be in harj [utter confusion and disorder], fitna will appear, people will be attacked, the old will not have mercy on the young, and the young will not show respect to the old, Allah will send someone to eradicate hostility and conquer the castles of perversion, uphold faith in the End Times just as I upheld it formerly, someone who will fill this Earth with justice where violence prevailed before. (*Al-Muttaqi al-Hindi, Al-Burhan fi `Alamat al-Mahdi Akhir az-Zaman*, p. 12.)

As these hadiths reveal, such chaos will spread around the world. Indeed, many countries have been ruined, either wholly or in part, by chaos, war, murder, and terrorism. Every day, hundreds are exiled or murdered for no reason. (For further information, see Harun Yahya's *Signs of the Last Day* [Global Publishing: 2003].)

31. Days of Anarchy and Chaos:

The Hour will come when violence, bloodshed, and anarchy become common. (*Muntakhab Kanz al-`Ummal*)

. . . [At that time,] strife, chaos and rebellion will be many, and people will kill one another. . . . (*Death—The Last Day—The Hereafter and Signs of the End Times*, p. 482, no. 901; *Kitab an-Nihaya, Ibn Kathir*, 1/131.)

This much is [certain](#): there will be some people in the near future who cause constant dispute and division. (*Death—The Last Day—The Hereafter and Signs of the End Times*, p. 376, No. 685.)

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Anarchy and conflict were among the most obvious features of the twentieth century. In countless wars, rebellions, and conflicts, great numbers of people died, and security and peace became one of the survivors' greatest longings. The seemingly unending civil wars in some African countries, rebellions in many countries (especially in Central and South America), wars and clashes throughout Asia, and conflict in the Middle East are only the most obvious examples of this chaos.

32. The Killing of Women, Children and the Innocent:

The Mahdi will not appear until seven out of nine [people] are killed. The killing of the innocent will be among them. (Al-Muttaqi al-Hindi, *Al-Burhan fi `Alamat al-Mahdi Akhir az-Zaman*, p. 35.)

The Mahdi will not emerge until innocent people are massacred, and he will appear when those on Earth and up in the sky can no longer put up with such massacres . . . (Ibn Hajar al-Haythami, *Al-Qawl al-Mukhtasar fi `Alamat al-Mahdi al-Muntazar*, p. 37.)

The Mahdi will not emerge until innocent people are killed. When those who are without sin are killed, the people of Earth and sky [will] detest the killers. (Al-Muttaqi al-Hindi, *Al-Burhan fi `Alamat al-Mahdi Akhir az-Zaman*, p. 35.)

While the hadiths about the Mahdi's emergence mention such massacres as commonplace, they also emphasize that such massacres will target innocent people. In addition, acts of terror, particularly in recent years, have resulted in the mass annihilation of people. Since terror seeks to spread fear and horror, the very [group that such attacks often target is](#) innocent civilians.

Many continue to lose their lives in different countries [because](#) of terrorists targeting shopping malls, restaurants, and schools frequented by defenseless women, youths, and children.

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33. The Enslavement of the Egyptians:

The people of Sham will take prisoner the tribes of Egypt. . . . (Ibn Hajar al-Haythami, *Al-Qawl al-Mukhtasar fi `Alamat al-Mahdi al-Muntazar*, p. 49.)

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As stated earlier, Sham (Damascus) is the region located on the western part of Hijaz, where Mecca and Medina are located. Today, Israel is one of the countries located in this region. Consequently, this hadith may well hint at Israel's war with Egypt and its occupation of Egyptian lands. On October 26, 1956, Israel, with British and French support, attacked Egypt and began to occupy the Sinai Peninsula. The fighting ended shortly afterwards, following intervention by the United States and the United Nations, and a U.N. peacekeeping force was stationed on the Israeli border.

Another conflict between Israel and Egypt was the Six-Day War in 1967, during Israeli troops took prisoner a large number of [Egyptians](#), and a large number of Egyptians were killed.

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34. The Destruction of Great Cities:

Great cities will be ruined, and it will be as if they had not existed the day before. (Al-Muttaqi al-Hindi, *Al-Burhan fi `Alamat al-Mahdi Akhir az-Zaman*, p. 38.)

When developed places are ruined, then Doomsday is no further away than the distance between your two fingers. (Muhammad ibn `Abd al-Rasul Barzanji, *Al-Isha`ah li Ashrat as-Sa`ah*, p. 143.)

There will be ruins all around the world. Ultimately, Egypt will also be ruined. However, until Basra is destroyed, Egypt will remain secure. The ruin of Basra will be because of Iraq's destruction. Meanwhile, the downfall of Egypt will come with the drying up of the Nile . . . (Mukhtasar Tazkirah al-Qurtubi, p. 530.)

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The ruin of great cities spoken of in these hadiths brings to mind the destruction that now arises from war and natural disasters. In addition, recently developed nuclear weapons, aircraft, bombs, missiles, and other weapons have caused untold destruction, bringing about a level of devastation heretofore unknown. Indeed, the great cities targeted are most affected by this destruction.

35. Rebuilding of Ruined Places:

The rebuilding of the ruined places in the world, and the ruination of constructed places, are signs and portents of Doomsday. (Muhammad ibn 'Abd al-Rasul Barzanji, *Al-Isha'ah li Ashrat as-Sa'ah*, p. 138.)

The reconstruction of these ruins is a further sign of the End Times. As stated in the previous section, many cities were reduced to rubble during the twentieth century and thus had to be rebuilt, among them Berlin, Leningrad (now St. Petersburg), and Dresden.

A similar example is Kobe, a Japanese city devastated by a powerful earthquake in January 1995. The region around Kobe and Osaka is one of Japan's most prominent industrial and commercial centers. Thus, the Kobe earthquake's total economic impact was immense, amounting to billions of dollars. Yet, despite this loss, Japan reconstructed Kobe.

36. One Type of Fitna will Spread Everywhere:

One kind of corruption [fitna] will surface, from which no party will be able to protect itself, and spread immediately in all directions. This situation will persist until someone comes and says: "O people, from now on your leader is the Mahdi." (Ibn Hajar Haythami, *Al-Qawl al-Mukhtasar fi `Alamat al-Mahdi al-Muntazar*, p. 23.)

The hadiths speak of a corruption that will touch everybody and spread quickly. Everybody will know this corruption, oppose religion and Allah, and target the people's faith. Today, materialist philosophy is the largest and most comprehensive trend designed to deny Allah's existence and creation. Its underlying philosophy, the theory of evolution, provides it with a self-proclaimed "scientific" basis. Even though it is not based on any scientific and logical evidence, certain materialist circles continue to work for its acceptance via constant propaganda, deceit, and even fraud.

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As our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) noted in one of his hadiths, corruption's global pervasiveness and rapid spread can materialize only when current technological means (that is, the press, publications, broadcasting, the Internet, and satellite communication) are available. As the relevant technology did not exist in the past, corruption could not spread throughout the world so quickly. As a result, no other worldwide trend was seen that declared war on Allah's existence, creation, and the morality of religion. All of these are among the important signs that the Mahdi's advent and the second coming of Prophet Jesus (pbuh) coincide with the present time.

37. Religious Prohibitions Gain Acceptance:

The Mahdi will not emerge until unbelief invades everywhere and is openly committed in public. What rules in such times is the invasion by unbelief . . . That is its power. (Imam Rabbani, *Letters of Rabbani*, Vol. 2, 259.)

The Mahdi will emerge following the occurrence of such vile fitna, whereby all of the prohibitions are regarded as lawful. (Ibn Hajar al-Haythami, *Al-Qawl al-Mukhtasar fi `Alamat al-Mahdi al-Muntazar*, p. 23.)

Such unlawful acts as prostitution, alcohol, and bribery are widespread in the world today. The Western media praises and encourages those who commit these unlawful acts, while criticizing those who do not. Statistics reveal that the number of people engaged in such activities is steadily increasing.

38. Openly Denying Allah (Allah is Beyond This):

The Mahdi will not be come until Allah is not said on the Earth. (*Al-Burhan fi Alamat al-Mahdi Akhir al-zaman* p.27.)

Atheism has been around for a long time, but started to spread on a heretofore unknown scale by the end of the nineteenth century. The number of people deluded by the spread of materialism and Darwinism, atheism's philosophical and so-called "scientific" bases, increased markedly in the twentieth century, atheism will be defeated by Allah's Will, thanks to the ideological struggle of sincere believers.

39. The Spread of Materialist Philosophy:

The Mahdi will appear when the letters of the Basmillah lose their importance. (*Risalat al-Khuruj al-Mahdi*, p. 29.)

"The letters of the Basmillah" may mean the people's stance toward Islamic morality and the condition of their faith. Indeed, in a period when the people's faith weakens, the Mahdi will appear and eliminate those ideological movements. Considered from this viewpoint, this hadith may

indicate materialism's and Darwinism's amazing influence on people.

Another hadith describes how atheism and lack of belief will rise during the End Times:

The Mahdi will not appear until denial is manifest everywhere in the community. What will be seen then . . . is the invasion of denial, and its power. (*Letters of Imam Rabbani*, 2-259.)

40. Fitna Alienates People from the Qur'an:

Before the Last Hour, there will be commotions [fitna] like pieces of a dark night in which a man will be a believer in the morning and an infidel in the evening, or a believer in the evening and infidel in the morning. (Sunan Abu Dawud)

Surat al-An'am, 26 speaks of those who keep others away from the Qur'an.

They keep others from it and avoid it themselves. They are only destroying themselves but they are not aware of it. (Surat al-An'am, 26)

The hadiths also indicate that corrupt patterns of thought will be prevalent before Doomsday comes, and that systems far removed from truth and justice will come into being. These developments will cause great discord and draw people away from the ways of Allah.

Other hadiths reveal that this corruption will be disseminated by various propaganda and indoctrination techniques:

"At that time, inviters will call the people to the gates of Hell. Whoever heeds that call, they will cast him into Hell. "O Messenger of Allah, tell us of the nature of those inviters!" they said. "Very well," he replied, "they will be from our nation and speak in our tongue." (*Death—The Last Day—The Hereafter and The Signs of the End Times*, p. 382, no. 698.)

In the near future, there will be some terrible corruption that makes people blind, deaf and mute and conceals the truth that makes people deaf to the truth, and mute, unable to speak the truth. . . . In a state of tumult because of corruption, the engagement of the tongue in corruption and propaganda will enable it to spread like a stroke from a sword. (*Death—The Last Day—The Hereafter and The Signs of the End Times*, p. 390, no.720.)

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The deafening silence imposed by this corruption reminds one of the authoritarian regimes in power in many countries. These regimes suppress intellectual freedom of thought and prevent people from expressing themselves and their beliefs as they wish. Muslims cannot freely express their thoughts and are persecuted because of their beliefs, particularly in some Arab and African countries—one instance of this state of affairs.

41. The Destruction of Masjids and Mosques:

The Sufyani will emerge from a dry valley . . . **He will destroy madrassas (schools) and mosques**, and punish everyone bowing [*ruqu`*] and prostrating [*sajda*] themselves in prayer. (Ali ibn Husamaddin al-Muttaki, *Hadiths from Jalaluddin al-Suyuti's Classification: Signs of the Mahdi of the End Times*, Kahraman Publications, p. 35.)

42. The Appearance of False Prophets:

The Hour will not be established until about thirty Dajjals [liars] appear, and each one of them will claim that he is Allah's Apostle. . . . (*Sahih Bukhari*)

The appearance of 60 liars, each of whom claims that Allah, the One God, has sent them as a prophet. (Al-Muttaqi al-Hindi, *Al-Burhan fi 'Alamat al-Mahdi Akhir az-Zaman*, p. 36.)

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43. People Who Exploit Religion for Their Personal Interests:

When scholars learn knowledge solely in order to make money . . . when they sell religion for worldly things . . . when they sell the judgment . . . the Last Day will be nearby. (*Death, The Last Day and Resurrection*, p. 480.)

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There will be people in the End Times who will sell their religion in return for worldly gain. (*Tirmidhi, Zuhd*, 60.)

Whoever reads the Qur'an, let him seek [his reward] from Allah. In fact, in the End Times, there will be some who read the Qur'an but seek [gain] from others. (*Hadith Concerning the End Times*, p. 9.)

44. The Number of True Believers Being Very Few:

There will come a time for my people when . . . mosques will be full of people, but they will be empty of right guidance. (*al-Hakim*)

A time will come when people will . . . adopt the views of people who make innovations [*bid'at* – those who seek to impose things that do not belong to the religion as if they actually do] and unknowingly fall into idolatry, when they study knowledge for profit, and when they use their religion as a tool to obtain possessions. (*Daylami; Hadiths Concerning the End Times*, p. 68.)

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45. The Oppression on True Believers:

I swear that this community will suffer such [fierce] tribulations that people will be unable to find anywhere to escape cruelty and oppression. At such a troubled time, Almighty Allah will send one [the Mahdi] from my own line. (*Death-The Last Day-The Hereafter and the Signs of the End Times*, p. 437)

He will punish all those who prostrate themselves to pray. . . He will be the enemy of Al-i Muhammad. . . . (Ali ibn Husamaddin al-Muttaki, *Hadiths from Jalaluddin al-Suyuti's Classification: Signs of the Mahdi of the End Times*, Kahraman Publications, p. 37.)

Here, one third of Muslims will be killed. . . . (*Al-Burhan fi Alamat al-Mahdi Akhir al-zaman*, p. 73.)

Another of the portents of the coming of the blessed Mahdi revealed in the hadiths is that at that time, Muslims will be subjected to great oppression and difficulty. The situation in the Islamic world today is proof that this portent is coming about. From Indonesia to Palestine and from Chad to East Turkestan, Muslims are being persecuted. Some of the details regarding these difficulties are set out in the hadiths:

- Despotic Rulers:

Woe to this community, because of the cruel, murdering rulers. These oppressors will terrify even those who remain silent, excepting only those who obey them (From Abu Nuaym; *al-Suyuti*, Vol. II, p. 64.)

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A leader oppressing the people is one of the signs of the Last Day. (*Alamat al-Qiyama*, p. 143.)

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These hadiths indicate the rise of irreligious, despotic and ruthless rulers in certain Muslim countries prior to the coming of the Mahdi.

- - The Spread of Atheist Ideologies:

[One sign of the Last Day is] the raising of the voices of the wicked inside mosques and the victory and rule of sinners over true believers who abide by the commands of the religion. (*Death—The Last Day—The Hereafter and the Signs of the End Times*, p. 450.)

- - Believers Forced to Hide Their Faith:

In another hadith, our Prophet (May Allah bless him and grant him peace) states that in the End Times, all this persecution will constrain true believers to conceal their faith and to worship in secret:

A time will come when believers will seek to maintain their faith in secret among other people, much as the hypocrites live in concealment among you today. (Ibn al-Sunni, *Hadiths Concerning the End Times*, p. 12.)

46. The Degeneration of Politicians:

One important feature of this time is the emergence of ruthless, cruel leaders who lead their peoples to disaster. The twentieth century was full of such people—individuals who adopted ideologies far removed from the moral values of religion. They became notorious for the cruelties they inflicted and for the sufferings they caused due to war and other conflicts. Mao had thousands of citizens killed solely for opposing him, and was responsible for the deaths of millions during his regime. Under the influence of fascist ideology, Mussolini led his people to disaster by dragging his country into World War II. Mobutu has gone down in history as one of Africa's most ruthless dictators.

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In the End Times, there will I be cruel rulers, wicked ministers, treacherous judges, and lying hodjas. If anyone goes to them, let him not be allied to them, help them, or show them the way. (*Risalat al-Khuru'j al-Mahdi*, p. 182.)

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Soon there will appear some chiefs who will confiscate your food and soothe you with lies. They will work, yet what they do will be evil. Their worst attribute is that they will not be pleased with you until you consider their evil as good and confirm their lies. (*al-Tabarani*)

One by one, the principles of Islam will be violated and some political leaders will misguide people. . . (*al-Hakim, Mustadrak*)

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47. The Concepts of Virtue and Vice Change Places:

The proliferation of the wicked and liars being believed is one of the signs of the Last Day. (*Bayhaqi, Ibn Najjar; Hadiths Concerning the End Times*, p. 107.)

The confirmation of falsehood and the rejection of the truth is one of the signs of the Last Day. (*Alamat al-Qiyama*, p.137.)

The liar will be believed, and he who tells the truth denied. The traitor will be trusted, and the trustworthy treated like a traitor. . . . Falsehood will spread in those times. (*Fera Idu Fevaidi'l Fiqr Fi'l Imam al-Mahdi al-Muntadhar; The Awaited Mahdi*, 3rd edition, pp. 146-147.)

48. Fighting Among Muslims:

Doomsday will not come until the two great Islamic armies war with one another. . . .
(*Mukhtasar Tazkirah al-Qurtubi*, p. 454, No. 831.)

Muslims who fail to get along well with one another in those days cannot avoid being the target of the Dajjal. (*al-Hakim, Mustadrak*, Vol. 4, pp. 529-30.)

Abu Huraira reported that Allah's Messenger (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) narrated: "The Last Hour will not come until the two [Muslim] parties confront each other, and there is a large-scale massacre amongst them and the chain of both of them is the same." (*Sahih Muslim*)

In these hadiths, our Prophet (May Allah bless him and grant him peace) called attention to some events that would take in our day. Indeed, as these hadiths reveal, at the beginning of the year 1400 of the Islamic era, Iraq and Iran were fighting each other, and Iraq would later invade Kuwait in 1999.

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49. The Cutting of Trade and Roads:

When trade and roads are cut and strife multiplies (*Al-Muttaqi al-Hindi, Al-Burhan fi `Alamat al-Mahdi Akhir az-Zaman*, p. 52.)

Before the Mahdi appears, trade and roads between nations will be cut and strife among people will grow. (Ibn Hajar al-Haythami, *Al-Qawl al-Mukhtasar fi `Alamat al-Mahdi al-Muntazar*, p. 39.)

Despite the commercial and economic cooperation between countries in our day, security concerns sometimes hinder many commercial activities. You can see this in the difficulties faced by those who want to transport the Caspian region's underground riches to other regions. Disputes and tensions elsewhere hinder similar economic cooperation and thereby limit commercial opportunities.

50. An Increase in the Number of Earthquakes:

The Hour [Last Day] will not be established until . . . earthquakes become very frequent.
(*Sahih Bukhari*)

There are two great events before the Day of Judgment . . . and then years of earthquakes. (*Ramuz al-Ahadith*, p.187, No. 2.)

The days when you can find no homes to shelter you, or animals to carry you, have come close. Earthquakes will demolish your ~~houses~~; ~~lightnings~~ will burn your herds, turning them into coals. (Muhammad ibn `Abd al-Rasul Barzanji, *Al-Isha`ah li Ashrat as-Sa`ah*, p. 146.)

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There will be disagreements and frequent earthquakes. (Muhammad ibn 'Abd al-Rasul Barzanji, *Al-Isha'ah li-Ashrat al-Sa'ah*, p. 166.)

According to U.S. Geological Survey reports, the number of earthquakes with a magnitude of 5.0 or greater on the Richter scale that took place during the 400 years between 1556-1975 was only 110; between 1980-2003, the number of earthquakes with a magnitude of 6.5 or greater on the Richter scale was 1,685.²⁵ These figures reveal that the number of earthquakes had increased by the beginning of the year Hijri 1400.

51. Drought:

During the three years just before the Dajjal comes, there will be one year when the sky will withhold one third of its rain and the Earth one-third of its fruits. In the second year, the sky will withhold two-thirds of its rain, and the Earth two-thirds of its fruits. In the third year, all of its fruits and all the animals will die. (Ibn Ahmad Hanbal)

The threat of drought—a consequence of global warming today—influences many parts of our world.

52. Winds and Tornadoes:

Doomsday will not happen until ten portents are seen. The tenth is a tornado that will hurl people into the sea ... (Muhammad ibn 'Abd ar-Rasul Barzanji, *Al-Isha'ah li Ashrat as-Sa'ah*, p. 288.)

These are the most important disasters arising from climatic changes that have occurred in recent years:

On October 1987, the largest storm since 1703 hit southeast England. Around 15 million trees were felled, a great part of the forests disappeared, 16 people died, buildings were damaged, and ships were driven onto the shore.

On March 20, 1998, 12 people died during the tornado in Georgia.

On 27 March 1997, 27 people died in a tornado that hit Texas.

Storms in Bangladesh on 13 May 1996, were estimated to have killed between 500 and 1,000 people. The same storms also led to 30,000 people being injured and 100,000 left homeless.

The damage caused in the Gulf of Mexico alone by Hurricane Andrew in 1992 was around \$500 million, and approximately \$250 million in the Bahamas. And 2 million people in the eastern USA were forced to leave their homes.

Floods in central and eastern parts of Europe in August 2002 caused 114 deaths. The most violent storms in South Korea for 40 years, on 21 September, 2003, led to around 200 fatalities over the course of two days.

In August 2005, Hurricane Katrina devastated eight towns and cities in Mississippi, destroying 80% of New Orleans and causing the deaths of 2,000 people. It is regarded as the second-worst storm in American history, with damage costs totalling around \$81.2 billion. With the collapse of the barriers designed to protect the city against flooding almost all the city was inundated. This may correspond to the description of “a storm that will cast people into the sea” given in the hadith.

Hurricane Sidr, which struck Bangladesh with wind speeds of up to 250 km/hour in 2007, ended in the loss of 3,200 lives and wreaked terrible destruction. Waves up to 6 meters high destroyed thousands of homes and led to the deaths of some 1,000 people. The hurricane affected around 5 million people and is regarded as one of the worst disasters of the century.

53. Violent Rain:

The Hour will not come until there has been rain, which destroys all dwellings. (Ibn Ahmad Hanbal)

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An increase in rain and a reduction in grass . . . occur because Doomsday is near. (Muhammad ibn `Abd ar-Rasul Barzanji, *Al-Isha`ah li Ashrat as-Sa`ah*, p. 137.)

The Hour does not come until all mud-brick buildings, except for the stone ones, collapse. (Ibn Ahmad Hanbal, *Musnad*, Vol. 13, p. 291, No. 7554.)

Heavy rains and the subsequent floods are among the great natural disasters that cause many casualties. In recent years especially, such events have caused serious material damage and killed many people throughout the world. The floods that affected Europe in recent years are an example. Heavy downpours hit almost all of Europe, causing floods and submerging portions of many large cities.

The seasonal monsoon rains that struck India, Nepal, and Bangladesh in 2002 left behind 900 dead. In China, mudslides caused by heavy summer rains killed 1,000 people in August 2002. Following the flooding in Europe in 2002, further floods in 2006 affected many European countries, especially Hungary, but also Romania, Serbia, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. In 2007, thousands were left homeless in flooding in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, while strong rain in July that year led to flooding that affected some 1 million people in Great Britain.

54. An Increased Amount of Lightning:

Thunderbolts will increase so much as the Hour approaches that when a man comes to a group of people, he will ask, "Who amongst you was struck by a thunderbolt this morning?" and they will say, "So and so and so and so was struck." (*Ibn Ahmad Hanbal*)

Earthquakes will destroy your [homes](#); lightning will burn your herds, turning them into coals. (*Nu`aym ibn Hammad*)

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The hadiths relate that the increased amount of lightning is a sign of Doomsday. As weather statistics indicate, the loss of possessions and the increased number of deaths due to lightning have become far more frequent in recent years. In 1998, for example, 11 soccer players were killed in Congo when lightning struck their field. [Similarly](#), in 2001, lightning hit a football field in Mexico and killed six people. Aside from these incidents, lightning kills many people and animals each year.

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Data from China show that each year, lightning strikes are increasing in frequency at a specific rate. The numbers rose from 7,625 in 2003 to 8,892 in 2004, 11,026 in 2005 and 19,982 in 2006. In 2006, lightning strikes killed 717 people in China alone.

55. Earth's Collapse:

The first sign of the Hour is Earth's collapse. (*Mukhtasar Tazkirah al-Qurtubi*, p. 518.)

When the latter generations of these people insult the former ones, expect red winds, Earth's collapse, or the raining of stones from the heavens. (*Tirmidhi*)

At the End Times, when entertainment and dancers pervade and drinking is considered permissible, Earth will collapse, stones will pour [from the sky], and people will strip off their humane qualities. (Ahmad Diya'al-Din al-Kamushkhanawi, *Ramuz al-Ahadith*, Vol. 2, p. 302, No. 8.)

56. Conversion of Homes into Graves:

He asked: "What becomes of you when death meets people and homes become graves?" (*Mukhtasar Tazkirah al-Qurtubi*, p. 392, No. 726)

57. Epidemics:

Epidemics such as plague, that is, the disease that hits sheep; it will seize you
(*Mukhtasar Tazkirah al-Qurtubi*, p. 417, No. 761.)

"O Awf ibn Malik! Shall I recite you six signs preceding Doomsday?" I [*Awf ibn Malik*] said: "What are they, O Resullulah?" He [*the Prophet* (*May Allah bless him and grant him peace*)] said: "Two fatal diseases, such as cholera and anthrax, will spread among you." (*Sahih Bukhari*)

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Two fatal diseases will spread among you, such as the Ikasu'l-Ganem [*a fatal and epidemic animal disease*]. (*Jami` al-Ushul*, Vol. 10, p. 412.)

This aside, in our day, new and unknown epidemics appear. Within the last 20 to 30 years, we have had to deal with AIDS, SARS, Ebola, Mad Cow disease, and bird flu, all of which have become grave threats.

58. People Fleeing One Another:

O Messenger of Allah, what is the fitna of Akhlas?" He said: "Fleeing—that is, the fleeing of people from one another due to mistrust and the looting of people's possessions."
(*Mukhtasar Tazkirah al-Qurtubi*, p. 386, No. 714.)

The hadith states that people will flee from one another due to mistrust and fear. This might refer to those who are forced to flee their homelands. Indeed, the number of refugees and exiles had increased greatly by the beginning of the twentieth century.

Especially during the last 20 to 30 years, this increase has reached significant totals. By 2001, the number of refugees reached 23 million while the number of people who had abandoned their homes was about 30 million.

59. Abandoning "Enjoining the Right and Forbidding the Wrong" as an Act of Worship:

The Hour will approach . . . when good is abandoned and nobody enjoins it, and evil is committed and no one forbids it. (*Mukhtasar Tazkirah al-Qurtubi*, p. 480.)

The Hour draws near, and the good deeds diminish. (Muhammad ibn 'Abd al-Rasul Barzanji, *Al-Isha`ah li Ashrat as-Sa`ah*, p. 264.)

60. Poverty and Hunger:

The poor will grow in number. (Amal al-Din al-Qazwini, *Mufid al-Uulum wa Mubid al-Humum*)

Gains will be shared out only among the rich, with no benefit to the poor. (Tirmidhi)

Three years before the appearance of the Dajjal, there will be exceedingly stressful days and hunger will rule. (Muhammad ibn `Abd ar-Rasul Barzanji, *Al-Isha`ah li Ashrat as-Sa`ah*, p. 220.)

Today, many people all over the world live without sufficient food and water, as well as in unhealthy conditions. While most of them are located in Africa, Asia, and South America, they are also quite numerous in rich countries such as in America and western Europe. As only a small portion of people live in great prosperity, nearly 2 billion live below the poverty line.

United Nations reports show that, in 1960, the 20% of the people in the richest countries had 30 times the income of the poorest 20; by 1995, it was 82 times.^{vii} As an example of the collapse of social justice, the wealth of the world's 225 richest individuals is equal to the annual income of the poorest 47%!^{viii}

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61. Abandoning Almsgiving:

When they regard giving alms as a punishment [i.e., as a burden instead of a religious observance]. . . . (Tirmidhi)

When that time comes, alms will be taken by force as a punishment and extortion as loot. (Fera Idu Fevaiddi'l Fiqr Fi'l Imam al-Mahdi al-Muntadhar, pp. 146-47.)

62. An Increase in Murders:

The Hour [Last Day] will not be established until murders increase. (Sahih Bukhari)
Doomsday will not come until your leaders kill and the wicked inherit your world. (Muhammad ibn `Abd ar-Rasul Barzanji, *Al-Isha`ah li Ashrat as-Sa`ah*, p. 141.)

. . . . The appearance of strife, terrifying situations, and murders. (Al-Muttaqi al-Hindi, *Al-Burhan fi `Alamat al-Mahdi Akhir az-Zaman*, p. 39.)

The Prophet (May Allah bless him and grant him peace) said: "When the time would draw close to the Last Hour, the Harj will increase." They said: "What is al-Harj? Thereupon he said: "It is bloodshed and slaughter." (Sahih Bukhari, Sahih Muslim and Sunan Abu Dawud)

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“... the shedding of blood . . . is one of the portents of Doomsday.” (Muhammad ibn `Abd ar-Rasul Barzanji, *Al-Isha`ah li Ashrat as-Sa`ah*, p. 142.)

He [the Prophet ([May Allah bless him and grant him peace](#))] said: “Before the Hour comes, there will be a lot of harj.” I asked: “O Allah's Messenger, what is harj?” He replied: “It is murder, that is, murders. . . . [Killing](#) one another, to such an extent that it is killing one's neighbor, nephew, or close relative.” (*Mukhtasar Tazkirah al-Qurtubi*, p. 385, No. 711)

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63. Increase in Suicides:

People kill themselves, and mischief prevails all over the world. (Ibn Kathir, *An-Nihaya*, Vol.1, p. 131.)

64. Moral Degeneration:

The Hour will not come. . . until there will be prevalence of open illegal sexual intercourse. (*Sahih Bukhari*)

. . . [One day] the Messenger of Allah ([May Allah bless him and grant him peace](#)) asked: “What will become of you when your young people fall into wrongdoing?” (*Al-Kutub as-Sitta*, hadith No. 4752; recorded by al-Haithami in *Majma' az-Zawaid* [7, 281].)

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The time will come when people's faces will be human faces. But their hearts will be the hearts of [Satan](#). They will be bloodthirsty and will not avoid evil deeds. If you obey them, they will look after you. If you trust them, they will betray you. Their children will be immoral, and their young people unrestrained. Their elderly will command no goodness, and forbid no evil. (al-Hatib, *The History of the Future* 1, p. 23.)

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65. Spread of Adultery:

The Hour will come when adultery becomes widespread. (*Sahih Bukhari*)

The Last Hour will not be established until they [*wicked people*] commit adultery on the roads [*public ways*]. (Ibn Hibban and al-Bazzar)

Children of adultery will grow in number. Many people will commit adultery with women in the middle of the street. (Muhammad ibn `Abd ar-Rasul Barzanji, *Al-Isha`ah li Ashrat as-Sa`ah*, p. 140.)

A time will come when adultery with women will be committed in the middle of the road. Nobody will object to this. (Muhammad ibn `Abd ar-Rasul Barzanji, *Al-Isha`ah li -Ashrat as-Sa`ah*, p. 142.)

66. Economic Problems and Social Inequalities:

People will prosper until the ninety-fifth year, that is, their business will prosper. In the ninety-seventh and the ninety-ninth year, their possessions will go to waste . . . (Ibn Hajar al-Haythami, *Al-Qawl al-Mukhtasar fi `Alamat al-Mahdi al-Muntazar*, p. 54.)

It is highly probable that "ninety-fifth [years](#)" refers to the year 1995, when people had a relatively better life and its conditions had not become so difficult. Indeed, as described in the hadith, during that year people had enough income to earn a living and had some possessions. However, during 1997 to 99, the economy deteriorated, poverty spread, and possessions lost their value. Such an event can happen very quickly, as exemplified by Argentina's recent economic crisis.

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One economic issue reported in the End Times is a decrease in earnings:

Everyone complains of low earnings. . . The rich are respected because of their wealth... (*Alamat al-Qiyama*, p. 146.)

Stagnation in the markets and falls in profits. . . (*Alamat al-Qiyama*, p. 148.)

According to these hadiths, the End Times will see social injustices as well as economic crises, and national wealth will not be distributed equally:

Allah's Messenger ([May](#) Allah bless him and grant him peace) said, "When my people do fifteen things trial will alight on them." He enumerated these things as follows: "When the booty is taken as personal commodity [circulating only through the hands of the rich and powerful, never being touched by the poor] . . ." (Tirmidhi, *Fitan*: 39, [2211])

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This state of affairs, described by our Prophet ([May](#) Allah bless him and grant him peace) as one of the signs of Doomsday, is currently taking place at an intense rate in the world as a whole. The richest in the world control a very large part of its wealth, while billions live in poverty and starvation. The poverty and hunger suffered by millions of people on the African continent alone are apparent for [the entire](#) world to see.

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67. Social Deterioration:

When people suffer strife and social upheaval (Ahmad Diya'al-Din al-Kamushkhanawi, *Ramuz al-Ahadith*, Vol. 7, p. 7.)

One striking mark of social decline is the huge increase in crime, which has now reached substantial proportions. The report *Universal Crime and Justice* prepared by the United Nations' International Crime Prevention Center, contains a general appraisal of crime throughout the world:

Basically, as in the 1980s, the crime rate continued to rise in the 1990s.

Everywhere in the world, in a five-year period, two-thirds of the people living in large cities have been the target at least once of a criminal action.

All over the world, the odds of being the target of a serious crime (robbery, sexual crimes, assault) are one in five.

Regardless of the area, crimes against property, and crimes of violence committed by youth, have both had economic ramifications.

The number of types of illicit drugs has increased, and their nature has diversified in recent years.³³

68. Increased Life Expectancy:

At that time, life spans will grow longer. (Ibn Hajar Haythami, *Al-Qawl al-Mukhtasar fi `Alamat al-Mahdi al-Muntazar*, p. 43.)

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Records clearly show that the average life expectancy is now the highest in history. There was already a great difference between the beginning and the end of the twentieth century. For example, a person born in 1995 can expect to live more than 35 years longer than a person born in 1900.^{ix}

69. The Greening of the Deserts:

The Day of Judgment will not come until there are rivers and gardens in Arabia. (Ibn Ahmad Hanbal, *Musnad*, Vol. 17, p. 22, No. 8819.)

The Day of Judgment will not come until there are rivers and streams in Arabia. (*Mukhtasar Tazkirah al-Qurtubi*, p. 471.)

To green the deserts, sufficient amounts of water and land must be obtained. One relevant technology now being developed is computer-controlled irrigation. This enables water to be sent directly to the plant's roots so that not a single drop is wasted. Given that purified water is a crucial element of desert agriculture, flood and seawater provide the basis of agricultural technology. In this way, vast water resources will be obtained, a development that also will be a major support of countries' economies.

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Our Prophet (May Allah blesses him and grants him peace) also indicated the very productive use of water:

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Both the Ummah's good and wicked members will be blessed with a blessing, the like of which they have never seen before. Despite the abundance of rain, not a drop will go to waste. The land will grow fruitful and fertile, without demanding a single seed. . . . (Ibn Hajar al-Haythami, *Al-Qawl al-Mukhtasar fi `Alamat al-Mahdi al-Muntazar*, p. 23.)

70. The Speaking of Voices by Means of a “Whip”:

The Last Hour will not come before the end of a man's whip speaks to him. (*Tirmidhi*)

In ancient times, the whip was widely used while riding saddle beasts, especially camels and horses. In this hadith, the Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) is making a comparison. Thus, "What speaking object can we compare to the handle of a whip?" The most likely answer would be a cell phone or similar communication devices. Such wireless communication devices are very recent developments, and are more indications that the Judgment Day is drawing near.

There will be no Judgment . . . until a person's own voice speaks to him. (*Mukhtasar Tazkirah al-Qurtubi*, p. 471.)

The message here is quite clear: a person's hearing his own voice is a characteristic of the End Times. For this to become a reality, one's voice must first be recorded. Such recording and reproduction technology was developed during the twentieth century. This turning point in the advancement of science enabled the birth of the communications and media industries. Voice recording has now reached its apogee via the latest developments in computer and laser technology.

In short, such electronic devices as microphones and speakers have made it possible for people to record and listen to their own voices, and thus fulfill the above hadith.

• CONCLUSION: ALLAH NEVER BREAKS HIS PROMISES

The coming of the blessed Mahdi has always occupied an important place in the history of the Abrahamic faiths. The coming of the Mahdi—described in detail in terms of his qualities, helpmates, the characteristics of his day and the deeds he will perform—is the subject of excited glad tidings in the scriptures of each faith.

From the way these portents have intensified and are taking place one after the other, we can see that the coming of the Mahdi is nearby. Corruption and strife, war and conflict, immorality and atheism have never been so intense, and degeneration is literally at a peak. This shows that the coming of the Mahdi is imminent. However, all these tribulations will end with the coming of the Mahdi, like fire being extinguished by water. And Allah will most certainly “**make them successors in the land as He made those before them successors, and will firmly establish for them their religion with which He is pleased. . .**” (Surat an-Nur, 55)

Deleted: other,

Deleted: close at hand

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Prophet Jesus (pbuh) who will appear at the same time as the Mahdi will particularly address the Christian and Judaic worlds, free them from the superstitions into which they have fallen, and call on them to live by Islamic moral values. When Christians follow Prophet Jesus (pbuh), the Christian and Islamic worlds will join together in faith of Islam, as promised in all three Abrahamic faiths’ holy scriptures—the Old and New Testaments and the Qur’an.—people all over the world will live in a climate of belief, filled with peace, security, and well-being.

Deleted: Mahdi,

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Those who are engaged in superstitious struggles in the face of these welcome developments, however, will witness the defeat written in their destinies. As revealed in the verse “**This was so that He might verify the Truth and nullify the false, even though the evildoers hate that**” (Surat al-Anfal, 8), Allah’s desires will prevail.

This is how the Qur’an describes the situation of those who resist the spread of religious moral values:

“But the actions of those who do not believe are like a mirage in the desert. A thirsty man thinks it is water, but when he reaches it, he finds it to be nothing at all, but he finds Allah there. He will pay him his account in full. Allah is swift at reckoning.” (Surat an-Nur, 39)

People living in the Golden Age will be restored to faith under the leadership of the Mahdi and will, Allah willing, witness a most honourable age. For believers, this period, which every Muslim will wish to experience because of its abundance, fertility, comfort and peaceful environment—will be a great joy in the life of this world. As a result of anarchy, terror, chaos, enmity and violence coming to an end in the Golden Age, they will attain a heavenly climate in this world, and lives filled with peace and ease.

Deleted: honorable

This blessing of Allah's upon believers is a promise of our Lord's, as revealed in the verse: **“As for those who make Allah their friend, and His Messenger and those who believe: it is the party of Allah who are victorious!”** (Surat al-Ma'ida, 56) and **“... Allah does not break His promise. But most people do not know it.”** (Surah Rum, 6).

In another verse of the Qur'an, our Lord tells us: **“What you are promised will certainly happen.”** (Surat al-Musalat, 7).

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- i Kurtlar Sofrasinda Ortadogu, M. Necati Ozfatura, p.175
- ii Hurriyet, January 23, 1991
- iii Kurtlar Sofrasinda Ortadogu, M. Necati Ozfatura, p.171
- iv Ottoman-Turkish Dictionary, Istanbul: 2000, p. 274.
- v Ottoman-Turkish Dictionary (Istanbul: 2000), 896
- vi "Individual Murders and Assassinations inside Syria and Abroad," Syrian Human Rights Committee. Online at: www.shrc.org/books/hr.20year/hr6.htm
- vii Human Development Report 1998" (New York: United Nations Development Program, September 1998). Online at www.oneworld.org/ni/issue310/facts.htm.
- viii "World Statistics.
- ix "Aging," M. Encarta Encyclopedia 2000.